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Setting of the Grand National Croquet Club.

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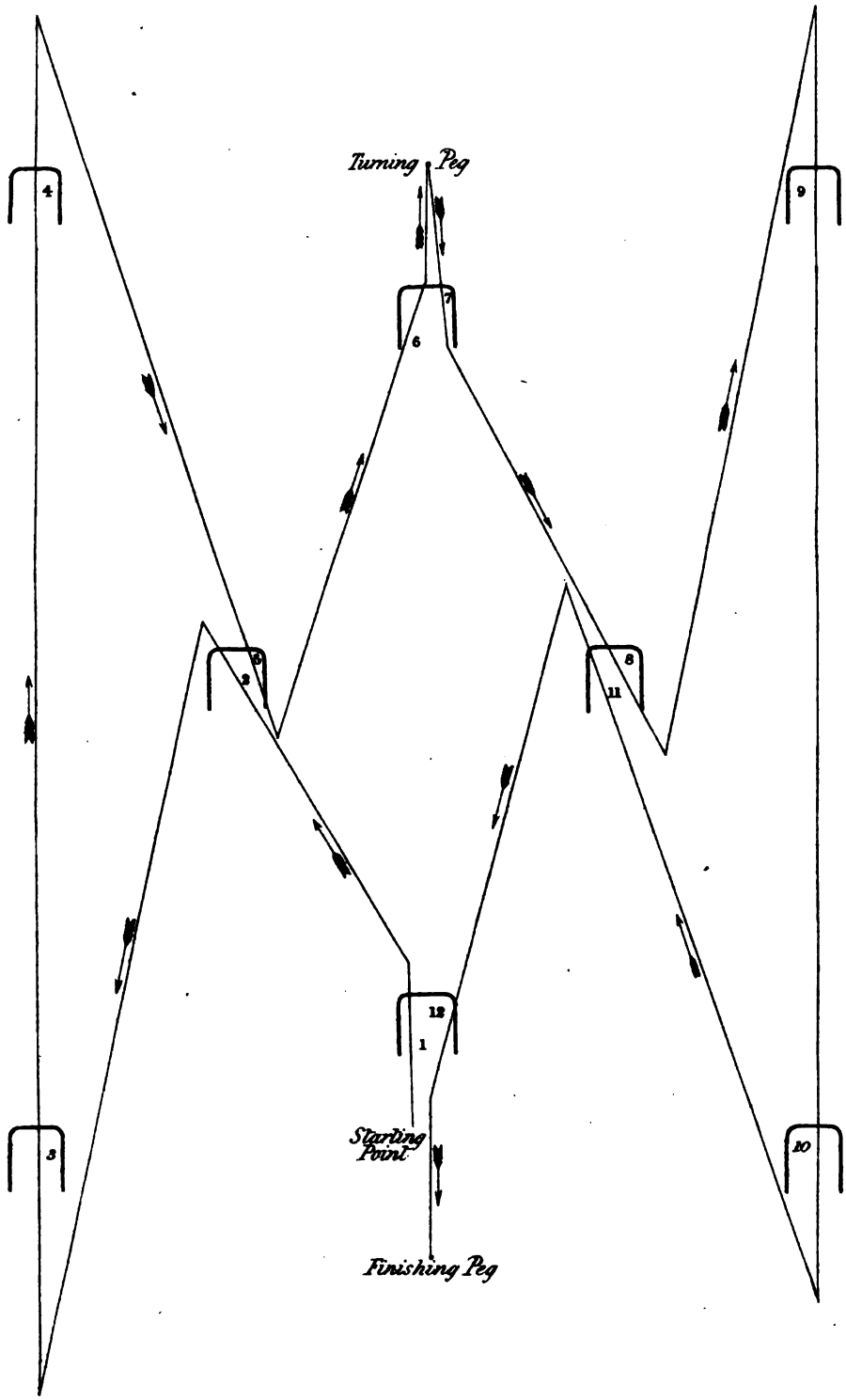

THE

Westminster Papers.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

OF

Chess, Whist, Games of Skill,

AND

The Drama.

VOLUME IV.

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The Westminster Papers.

1st MAY 1871.

OURSELVES.

WE trust our readers will forgive us if, in commencing the Fourth Volume of the *Westminster Papers*, we devote a portion of our space to a brief review of our past labours.

It may be urged that "on their own merits modest men are dumb"—and we are willing to concede that the severest self judgment will generally be found tempered with mercy—but laudation of ourselves is not our present purpose, except indeed so far as a recapitulation of our aims and objects may conduce to that end.

First, as regards our Chess Department. We have, by giving our readers only the best games and problems, never before published, definitely established a reliable standard of Chess skill during the past three years; inasmuch as these have been contributed by the most eminent Chess players of Europe. Among foreign players whose games or problems will be found in our pages there are,—Anderssen, Horwitz, Hoffer, Kling, Kolisch, Minckwitz, Meyer, Neumann, Paulsen, Rosenthal and Steinitz; whilst of native skill there are examples from Blackburne, Boden, Burden, Burn, Bird, De Vere, Duffy, Frazer, Grimshaw, Kidson, Macdonnell, Ormond, Potter, Skipworth, Smith, Thorold, Wayte, Wisker and Wormald. To all these gentlemen our thanks are justly due. We are indebted to them for the straw without which our bricks would have never reached a market, and we now offer them those acknowledgments which the steadiness of their attachment calls upon us to testify. We shall, in the future as we have in the past, endeavour to revive in this country that interest in the Royal Game which the professional charlatanism of the period had so nearly succeeded in destroying, and if our honest criticism should condemn a few pretenders to deserved oblivion we have the satisfaction of knowing that it can but increase the reputation of the true masters of Chess. We are proud to say that such has been the reputation which these "Papers" have obtained, both at home and abroad, that we have been obliged to reprint most of the numbers up to the present time, notwithstanding that unusually copious editions of each were issued on the first publication.

As to Whist, we have given 88 hands. In the whole Whist literature we doubt if so large a number has hitherto been published. *The Field* has contributed 60, and Cavendish 12, but we think we are accurate in stating that there are not elsewhere a dozen published games. Except in very rare instances, *The Field* is not "bound," and the games are practically lost after the week of publication. Our 88 hands form a valuable part of Whist literature. We do not pretend that they are perfect, but, with the exception of some half-dozen, they are all genuine, being given exactly as they were played. To a student of Whist these must prove of immense value, and future generations of players—when Whist has grown as it will grow, and has improved as it will improve—may possibly look at these hands to see how we played in 1870. A few hands noted down by Hoyle or Mathews would now be of great value. Some of the hands we have given are of great beauty; others, again, point out gross but common errors; whilst the majority are instances of the stupidity of one player and the skill of another in taking advantage of the blunder. This, after all, is Whist. If we could find perfect hands we should publish them; but to find four good players at one table, and one of these players not only capable to take down the game, but sufficiently interested in the subject to do so, are events unlikely to happen often. For the games we have published, we have especially to thank Mr. Belaieff (whose memory in this respect is very remarkable), Emgeen, Cam, Mogul, F. H. Lewis, Senex and H. M. P. for their contributions, and the remainder have been taken down by ourselves immediately after they were played. For the convenience of reference we purpose hereafter to number the games consecutively, beginning at 90. We have also published in our three volumes, 49 examples of Simple Endings, Whist Curiosities, Double Dummy Hands and Double Dummy Endings; a collection which, we believe, as regards number and quality, has never before been equalled; and for the large majority of these we are indebted to Mr. F. H. Lewis. We shall number the next Ending 50 for convenience of reference. Of our law we have reason to be vain. The numbers of questions referred to us for decision have yearly increased. Our answers have met with general

approval, and, as we give our reasons for our decisions, we may rest assured that in a community of Whist players they would not have remained unchallenged unless they were based on sound reasoning. Although, prior to our existence, there was already a good authority on the laws in the person of Cavendish, he wrote his answers without giving the questions propounded to him, and he preferred the *ipse dixit* of himself or another to reasons. We fancy we have assisted in clearing up many of the obscurities in the laws, and we are sure that Whist lawyers will hereafter find the points raised and decided in these columns of great value. Whether he adopt the answers or not, he will see what the question was, and the grounds for the decision. On Piquet we have had many questions, and we have to thank the ever kind and courteous J. C. for his valuable aid in this department. The laws of Piquet are in a very unsatisfactory state, and if Cavendish had marked the growing interest on the subject we fancy he would not have wasted his time in bringing out laws of Poker, Ecarté and Spoil Five (which we did not want), but would have given us a revised edition of the laws of Piquet, which we do want.

Of the books that have been brought out on the subject of Chess and Whist, we think we have spoken without fear or favour. We have not bowed down nor worshipped any great authorities; nor because the writers were unknown have we condemned their productions. The same independence that we have shewn in the past will we trust be exhibited in our pages in the future. We may add, that it has been our desire to improve and elevate the game of Whist as much as possible, and to sweep away everything derogatory to it. Everything in the nature of sharp practice and petty fraud that has come to our ears, and everything that is unbecoming a gentleman at the Whist table, has received at our hands censure in its purest and least adulterated form. Whist is not a game for sharpers, nor need gentlemen mix with sharpers. Wrangles and quarrelling are not necessaries of Whist, and are just as great an offence against good taste as brawling in church. Breaches of etiquette have received castigation at our hands, and, although we have offended many of our correspondents by our outspokenness on these subjects, we believe that on the whole we have done good.

The Notes on the Drama and the Theatres, which have been so great a feature of the Magazine, will be continued as occasion may require. It has been objected that Dramatic Notes are out of place in a serial of this description, and are not consonant with the rest of the matter contained in its pages; and that the devotees of Whist, Chess, and other games of skill are the last people in the world to trouble their heads about theatrical affairs. Our answer to this, if any answer be necessary, is that, whether out of place or otherwise, these Notes are found very acceptable to our subscribers, who receive them with pleasure, and complain if they are absent. In fact, they have met with very considerable favour, and the reason we conceive to be, not merely that they are written with ability and a knowledge of the subject, but that they are marked by a thorough independence of treatment. When, two years ago, we commenced a series of Dramatic Notes, independendent criticism on things theatrical was quite unknown. The professional critic was merely a reporter, and the many abuses connected with actors, authors, managers and the critics themselves were allowed to reign unheeded. It is with some satisfaction, therefore, that we can point to a considerable change for the better in these matters. The consideration of very many abuses, which have been commented upon by our contributor in town, has been taken up in more influential quarters; and at present it would seem that an era of wholesale cursing is to succeed that of unmixed blessing. A change is evident in dramatic criticism, which, if not more able, is at least more honest than two years ago; but that there is yet room for much improvement may be seen from a remarkable article on Mr. Oxenford, which lately appeared in the *Athenæum*. A change is evidently arising in the system of free admissions, a system that we have always warred against, and has recently been denounced by the management of the newest theatre in London. Lastly, a change is very evident in one or two old theatres, the decrepit and effete nature of whose performers and entertainments has been the theme of much censure in these pages; and the Adelphi Theatre, which may be taken as a specimen, is now rejuvenescent, and frisks as gaily as the youngest of its rivals. But there is still plenty of work to be done; and, as it has already been, the note of many a reform may yet be sounded in the pages of the *Westminster Papers* although the humble pipe which sounds it may be unnoticed in the grand crash of instruments of wind and brass that take up the burden of the tune.

Each year we have given more matter for the money; our circulation increases steadily: but great help could be afforded if the Secretaries to the various Chess and Whist Clubs in the country would not only use their endeavours to promote the circulation, but would also contribute items of information in connection with the two games.

To the Press generally we have reason to be grateful. From *Bell's Life*, the *Chess Quarterly*, *Land and Water*, the *Gentleman's Journal*, and all our foreign contemporaries, we have received cordial assistance. The *Illustrated* and *Era* retain their policy of isolation, and refuse to recognize our existence. It is encouraging to be assured that this policy not merely fails in its desired object, but has the additional effect of recoiling upon its authors, for the journals in question have ceased to have authority in Chess matters, the Chess column in both being inferior in interest and importance to that in *Land and Water*. Whether the new Chess editor of *The Field* will restore its lost prestige remains to be seen, but at present he has not exhibited that daring and originality we have a right to expect at the hands of so young a writer and such an ingenious player.

FOSSIL CHESS.

It has not yet occurred to us that the relation of events in chronological order is any assistance to the memory in retaining them in that order or in any other. The history of England, in which at school we were supposed greatly to excel, left no continuous story on our minds, but only a confused mass of murders and dates; all order too in the succession of the sovereigns' reigns was lost, but, from the maxim "ladies first" having been early instilled into us, we were for some time naturally under the impression that the queens were the first sovereigns, beginning with "Good Queen Bess," (whom we have, however, since discovered to be no better than she should be) and finishing off with Boadicea; such is the result of chronological order. We do not wish this series of articles to resemble a kitchen-garden, in which the vegetables succeed each other, season by season, from the green kale in January, to the radish in December, but rather to be like Covent Garden Market, in which all the vegetables of many seasons are displayed at once, with fruits and perhaps some flowers; and where each can obtain what he likes best, subject only to one condition, with which our readers are probably already acquainted. We shall not, therefore, consider ourselves bound to tell our story chronologically; but shall put all our facts into a box, and draw them out one by one, and relate them for the instruction and—we hope as well—for the amusement of our respected readers.

History is not always beautiful,—it is the record of what men do; tradition sometimes is,—it is the story of men's dreams. The Sagas, amplifications like the Edda, of the Voluspa, the Bible of the ancient Scandinavians, contain many beautiful traditions; amongst others, they represent the dead heroes enjoying themselves in the Walhalla, playing at Chess, and drinking, from the sculls of their slain enemies, mead, served by the Valkyriæ, celestial virgins of the "beautiful for ever" type. This is certainly a pleasant way of passing one's days, but we have occasion to fear, from the fact of time being unlimited, that the games were rather of longer duration than would be pleasant to any of us mortals since the date of old Parr. All this, however is changed now; the mead is made of bad and cheap wine, and is limited in quantity. The Valkyriæ, too, we regret to learn, are fading away, the only individual possessing the secret of rendering them "beautiful for ever" having been locked up in jail. This is a delightful picture; history is not always so nice, viz.:—

An Emperor of Morocco, whose name, like some authors, we shall not pretend to forget, because we never knew it, was inordinately fond of Chess. His board was the floor of his hall, and his pieces human beings; all the pieces that were taken during the game he caused to be beheaded. Conceive the agony of the Gambit-pawn. This is history, and we think forms an exception to the generally received rule that Chess is a harmless game; for the benefit of our younger players, however, we beg to say that this method of play is now quite out of fashion.

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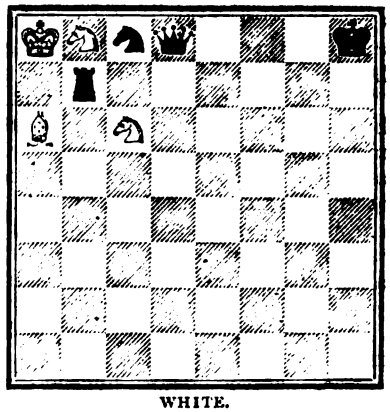

WHITE.

Black to move and mate in three moves.

We should have placed the problem which is in the margin at the end of the article, as it looks better, had it not been our lot to draw it next out of the box. It is intended to represent the battle of the Horatii and the Curiatii, with all the eventualities of that memorable mill—the sacrifice of two, and the final victory of one against three. The white are the Albans. We are sorry we cannot inform our readers which are the Horatii and which the Curiatii, for, although until recently, writers were contented to accept the old story that the Horatii fought on the Roman side, now, in this sceptic age, all old stories are being pulled to pieces, and the fact of the Horatian *gens* in Rome having some generation or two back assumed the name of "Luceres" is, according to some historians, good ground for a little doubt; we think so too, the more especially as there were Horatii among the Albans. But this has nothing to do with the subject.

Guido Novello da Polenta, master of Ravenna with little intermission from 1265 to 1322, the munificent patron of Dante and himself, according to Tiraboschi, a poet of some excellence, was certainly the first who gave any substantial encouragement to Chess and Chess players out of Spain, where it had long been cultivated by the Moors. At his invitation Buzecca, a Moor, and the best player of the time visited Ravenna, in 1266, and played three simultaneous games, two of them blindfolded, with the three best procurable antagonists; two of them he won, and the third, that played over the board, was a draw. We verily believe that Guido Novello da Polenta was astonished.

The poems of the Tafelrunde, the German version of the old Welsh Knights of the Round Table, contain allusions to Chess, and represent the Knights as occasionally playing; this is, however, only a flight of the poet's fancy, as few will be willing to believe that the huge round table at Winchester Castle was designed by Uter Pendragon as a Chess-board.

Few things connected with Chess are more interesting to some than the origin of the names of the pieces, and the mutations which the pieces themselves have undergone from the beginning. The game, of Indian origin, travelled to us through Persia, where we first hear of its being played by Chosroes, in 580. In Persia the King is *Schah*, *Sciah* or *Schach;* this last is the German for *Chess* and *Check*, and with it are more or less

nearly allied all European names for the game except the Russian, which is direct from India. *En passant*, *Schach* in Persian signifies also a small coin, so-called, no doubt, on account of its value—a trifle under three half-pence. In old German, *Schach* means robbery, plunder, violence and murder, in fact the whole stock-in-trade of an old German king. The identity almost of the meanings of the word in the two languages is remarkable, as the word itself, and that which it represents in both nations are of distinct origin. The King has undergone no change except in the mode of his Castling; with the Italians the square upon which he is to be placed is at the option of the player, and the same with the Rook. Among some people, the King, instead of Castling, is allowed once the move of the Knight, but cannot capture in making the move. The Castle or Rook was the piece of most importance in the old game, on account of its power, that being as now. The word *Rohk*, both in Persian and Indian, signifies a camel, answering in battle to our light horse, and placed on the wings of the armies. Amongst the Eastern people this piece is sometimes carved in the similitude of that beast. How the camel came to be metamorphosed into a Castle, has not been satisfactorily explained.

We shall give an account of this and other matters in our next, but at present our space is full.

[*To be continued.*]

WESTMINSTER CHESS CLUB PROBLEM TOURNAMENT.

THE custom which has prevailed for some years past of offering prizes for original problems has raised up amongst us a class of Chess Amateurs almost totally distinct from ordinary Chess players.

Chess now attracts, like the sciences, two types of intellect. It has in the ordinary Chess player its skilled artisan, and in the problem composer its inventive designer; and this analogy with other arts so far holds good, that the two qualities are rarely to be found in the same person. That the inventive designer is a necessity, the universal demand for his productions sufficiently proves, and when we consider the large and increasing number of amateurs who, either as composers or solvers of problems, take an interest in that branch of the game, it is obviously desirable to supply an occasional stimulus to their exertions by a competition for prizes. We have therefore great pleasure in announcing that the Committee of the Westminster Chess Club, on the proposal of Dr. Alexander, warmly supported by Mr. Boden, Mr. Marett, and the other members of that body, offer two prizes for the best sets of three original problems by British composers. This limitation of the competition, which we heartily approve, has not been adopted hastily, nor without due consideration. It does not emanate from any illiberal or other unworthy feeling towards the stranger, nor from any sense of the inferiority of native composers, but from a conscientious opinion that the first duty of an English Chess Club is to encourage and foster British Chess. It will, we conceive, be time enough to invite the world to compete with us when a reliable standard of our own skill has been ascertained, and, until that desirable result has been accomplished, our energies need not be devoted to measuring the skill of others.

The Committee have appointed Mr. R. B. Wormald and Mr. P. T. Duffy examiners and judges, and have committed to these gentlemen the power to define the conditions, and make all the necessary arrangements for the tourney, and their names will be a sufficient guarantee to the Chess world of an able examination of the competing problems, and an impartial award of the prizes. By reference to the conditions of the tourney it will be seen, that a plan has been adopted whereby each competitor will have an opportunity of examining the competing problems before the award is made, and we are authorised to state that the judges will be glad to receive remarks or suggestions in reference to the originality and accuracy of the problems, addressed to the Editor of this Journal. The following are the conditions of the Tourney:—

1. The competition will be open to British composers only.

2. The problems to be original, to be ordinary mates, and the solutions to be in not less than three nor more than four moves.

3. Each competitor to send three problems. The positions to be clearly described upon diagrams, to be accompanied by full solutions, and to bear a distinguishing device or motto, and not the author's name.

4. Each competitor to send with the problems a sealed envelope containing his name and address, and endorsed with the motto corresponding with that affixed to the problems. These envelopes will not be opened until after the adjudication of the prizes.

5. The problems to be sent to the Editor of the *Westminster Papers*, 1 Ironmonger Lane, London, E.C., on or before the 14th day of July 1871 from composers resident in the United Kingdom, and on or before the 14th day of August 1871 from composers resident in the colonies or abroad.

6. Problems the joint composition of two or more composers will be disqualified.

7. The problems, after undergoing a preliminary examination, will be published in this Journal, at the rate of three sets per month; and on the expiration of one month after the publication of the last set, the prizes will be awarded.

PRIZES.

FIRST PRIZE.—For the best set of three original problems in not less than three nor more than four moves £5.

SECOND PRIZE ... ... £2 10s.

PROBLEMS.

PROBLEM No. I.—By the late T. SMITH.
(One of his last compositions, and hitherto unpublished.)

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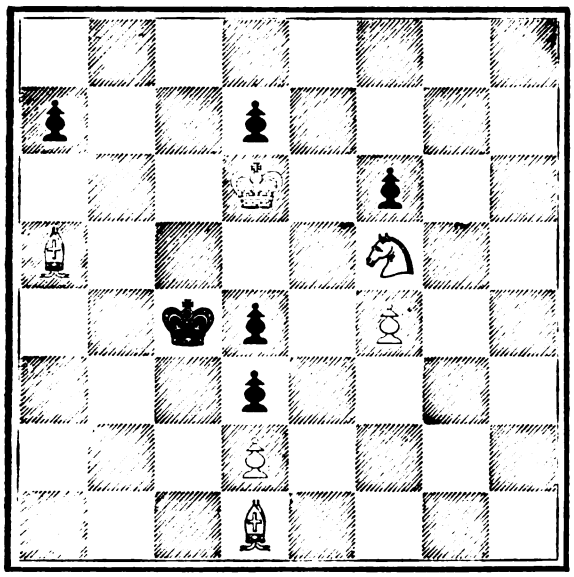

WHITE.

White to play and mate in six moves.

PROBLEM No. II.—By J. MINCKWITZ,
Editor of the *Schachzeitung* (Leipsic).

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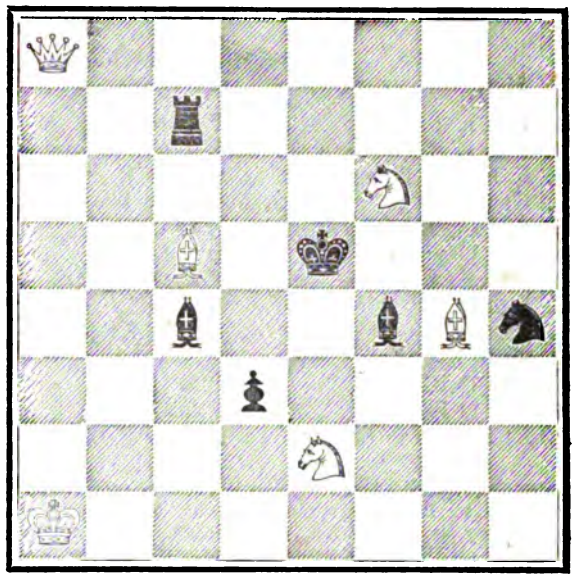

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. III.—By V. N. PORTILLA.

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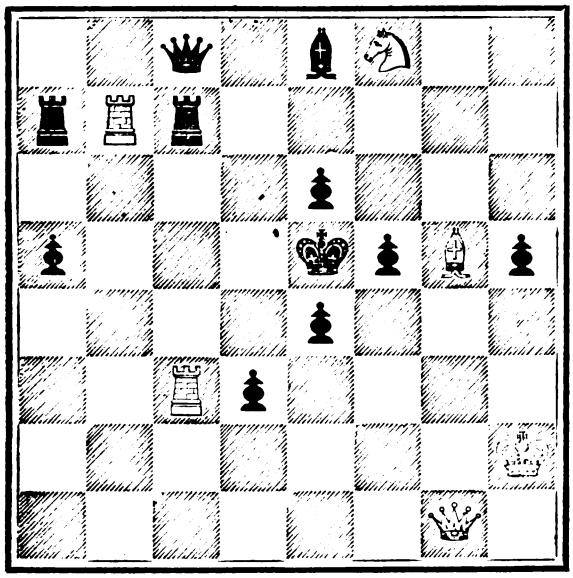

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. IV.—By V. GORGIAS.

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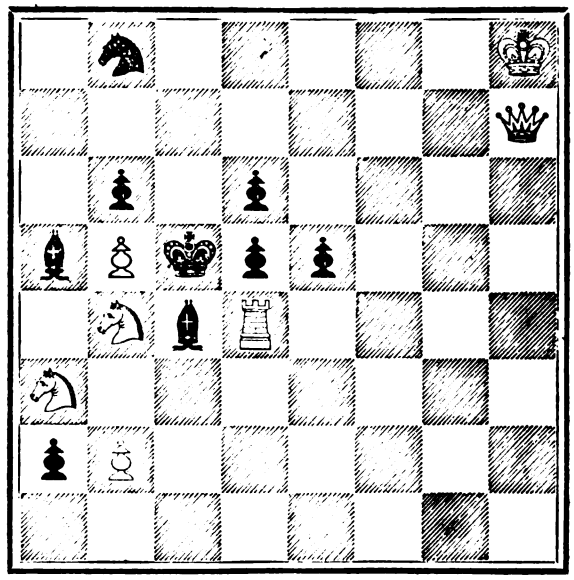


WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEMS IN THE MARCH NUMBER.

No. XLVI.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1. R to Kt 7	1. Kt takes R or aught
2. Q to R 7	2. Anything
3. Mates accordingly	

No. XLVII.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1. R to K 4	1. Anything
2. Mates accordingly	

The numerous variations in this fine problem form a beautiful study for our young readers.

No. XLVIII.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1. B to K R 2	1. Kt to K B 5 or aught
2. Kt to Q B 4	2. Anything
3. B or Kt mates	

No. XLIX.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1. R to K 5	1. Q takes R
2. Q takes B ch	2. Anything
3. Either Kt mates	

GAMES.

GAME I.—Played at Leipsic, March 1871.

(King's Gambit declined.)

White. Herr MINCKWITZ.	Black. Herr SCHLOEMANN.	White. Herr MINCKWITZ.	Black. Herr SCHLOEMANN.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	14. Q to B 2 (c)	14. Kt to Q 2
2. P to K B 4	2. P to Q 4	15. K to R sq	15. P to K R 3
3. K P takes P	3. P takes P	16. B to K 4 (d)	16. Q R to Kt sq
4. Kt to K B 3	4. Q takes P	17. Q Kt takes B P	17. B takes Kt
5. Kt to Q B 3	5. Q to Q sq	18. B takes B	18. Q takes B
6. P to Q 4	6. B to Q 3	19. Kt to K 5 (e)	19. Q to K 6 (f)
7. B to Kt 5 ch	7. P to Q B 3 (a)	20. Kt takes B	20. Q takes P
8. B to Q 3	8. Kt to K 2	21. Q R to Q sq	21. Q to Kt 7
9. Castles	9. B to K Kt 5	22. Q to R 4	22. R to Q sq
10. Kt to K 2	10. Q to B 2	23. R takes Kt	23. R takes R
11. P to Q B 4	11. P to Q B 4	24. R to Q sq	24. Castles
12. P to Q Kt 4	12. P to Q Kt 3	25. Q takes R	25. Q to K 7
13. Kt P takes P (b)	13. P takes P	26. B to B 3	Resigns.

(a) B to Q 2 is a better reply to White's last move. (b) We fail to see White's reason for declining to win a piece, at least, by B to K 4. (c) Preventing "Castling." (d) A necessary prelude to the brilliant sacrifice White now contemplates. (e) All this is very finely played by White. The necessity for his 16th move is now apparent, for if the B had not been posted at K 4, Black could now play Q takes P with advantage. (f) His best move apparently. If Q to Kt 4, then follows Kt takes K B P, attacking the Q and R.

GAME II.—Between Mr. Rosenthal and Mr. W. N. Walker, the former giving the odds of Pawn and move.

(Remove Black's K B P.)

White. Mr. WALKER.	Black. Mr. ROSENTHAL.	White. Mr. WALKER.	Black. Mr. ROSENTHAL.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 3	18. Kt to K 3	18. Castles
2. P to Q 4	2. Kt to Q B 3	19. P to K R 6	19. P takes P (g)
3. Kt to K B 3	3. P to Q 4	20. B to K B 6	20. R to K Kt sq
4. P to K 5	4. Kt to K 2 (a)	21. B takes K R P	21. Kt takes B
5. B to Q 3	5. Kt to K Kt 3	22. Q takes Kt	22. Kt to K B 4
6. P to K R 4	6. B to K 2	23. Q takes Q ch	23. R takes Q
7. P to K R 5	7. Kt to K B sq	24. Kt takes Kt	24. P takes Kt
8. B to K 3	8. Kt to Q Kt 5 (b)	25. R takes K R P (h)	25. P to Q B 4
9. B to K 2 (c)	9. P to Q Kt 3	26. P to K Kt 3	26. P to K B 5
10. P to Q B 3	10. Kt to Q B 3	27. P to K 6	27. R to Q 3 (i)
11. Q to Q B 2	11. Kt to Q 2	28. B to K 5	28. R to Q sq
12. B to Q 3	12. Kt to K B sq (d)	29. B takes K B P	29. R to K R sq
13. Q Kt to Q 2	13. B to Q Kt 2	30. P to K 7	30. R to K sq
14. P to Q R 4	14. P to Q R 4	31. R takes R	31. R takes R
15. Kt to K B sq	15. Q to Q 2	32. B to K Kt 5	32. K to Q 2
16. Kt to K Kt 5 (e)	16. B takes Kt	33. B to K R 4	Resigns.
17. B takes B	17. Kt to K 2		

(a) P to K Kt 3 is usually adopted at this point. (b) A purposeless move to all appearance. (c) White wisely retires, his Bishop foreseeing that on the next move he can force the adverse Knight to execute a similar strategic movement to the rear. (d) These ineffective sallies of the Knights are not in Mr. Rosenthal's usual style, and appear ludicrous enough when contrasted with the precision of his youthful adversary. (e) Forcing the exchange of pieces, and bringing the Q B into active play. (f) Very well conceived. (g) If he plays P to Kt 3, then follows Kt to Kt 4 and B to B 6, &c., with a winning game. (h) White plays all this in capital style. (i) He has nothing better to do. If R to K sq, White replies with R to R 8, and on Black playing R to K 2 (best) exchanges Rook, and must win.

GAMES.

GAME III.—Played at the City of London Chess Club, between Messrs. Potter and Blackburne.
(Queen's Gambit declined.)

White. Mr. Potter.	Black. Mr. Blackburne.	White. Mr. Potter.	Black. Mr. Blackburne.
1. P to Q 4	1. P to K 3	23. R takes R	23. P takes P
2. P to Q B 4	2. P to K B 4	24. P to K R 4	24. P takes P
3. Q Kt to B 3	3. K Kt to B 3	25. Kt takes P	25. Q to Kt 4
4. P to K 3	4. P to Q Kt 3	26. Kt to Kt 2	26. P to Kt 4
5. P to Q R 3	5. B to Kt 2	27. B to Q B 3	27. R to Kt sq (g)
6. K Kt to B 3	6. B to K 2	28. B to K sq (h)	28. B to R 3
7. B to K 2	7. Castles	29. Kt to K B 4	29. Q to R 3
8. P to Q Kt 4	8. Q to K sq	30. K to Kt 2	30. B to Kt 4
9. Castles	9. P to K R 3	31. R to K R sq	31. B takes Kt
10. Kt to K sq	10. P to K Kt 4 (a)	32. P takes B	32. Q to Kt 2
11. P to R 3	11. Q to Kt 3	33. R to R 5	33. Kt to B 2
12. P to K Kt 4 (b)	12. Kt to K 5 (c)	34. P to Kt 5	34. Kt to Q 3
13. Kt takes Kt	13. P takes Kt	35. P to Kt 6	35. Kt to K B 4
14. B to Kt 2 (d)	14. P to Q 4	36. Q to K R 3	36. R to K B sq
15. R to B sq	15. B to Q sq	37. K to R sq	37. R to B 3
16. Kt to Kt 2	16. Kt to Q 2	38. R to R 7	38. Q takes P
17. P to Q B 5	17. Kt to B 3 (e)	39. R to R 8 ch	39. K to Kt 2
18. P to B 6	18. B to B sq	40. B to R 5	40. Q to R 2
19. P to B 4	19. B to K 2	41. R takes Q	41. R takes R
20. Q to K sq (f)	20. Kt to K sq	42. Q to Kt 4 ch	42. K to R 2
21. Q to Kt 3	21. Kt to Q 3	43. K to Kt sq	43. B to B sq
22. P takes P	22. R takes R ch	44. B to B 7 and White wins.	

(a) The advance of this Pawn is premature, as it weakens Black's position on the King's side. (b) The correct reply. (c) This is not good; but it is difficult to say what Black could have done. 12. P to K R 4, and if White takes the R Pawn, playing 13. Q to Kt 2, would, we believe, have been a much better way of conducting the game. (d) Mr. Potter here fails to take full advantage of his adversary's play, he should rather have played 14. Q to B 2. (e) This is a mistake; he ought to have played 17. P to B 3, in that case the following variation would probably have occurred :—

	17. P to B 3
18. P to Kt 5	18. P takes Q B P
19. Q P takes P	19. P to K 4

and Black has a good game. (f) From this point to the end White plays exceedingly well. (g) An error, as will presently be seen. 27. B to R 3 was the proper play, but it is questionable whether even that would have saved the game. (h) A masterly move; for if Black now attempts to win the advanced Pawn by R to Kt 3, he loses the game as follows :—

	28. R to Kt 3	33. Kt to B 4	33. Q to R 2
29. Q to R 2	29. R takes P	34. Kt to R 5	34. B takes B
30. B to Kt 3	30. B to K B sq	35. P takes B	35. Kt to K sq
(He has nothing better.)		36. B takes P	36. B to Q 2
31. B to K B 4	31. Q to Kt 3	37. B takes R	37. B takes B
32. B to K 5	32. B to K Kt 2	38. Q to B 4	Winning easily.

CHESS MATCH.

A Match has been arranged to take place between the City of London and Westminster Chess Clubs, from fifteen to twenty members on each side. Members of the two clubs desiring to play should communicate with their respective secretaries. The day will be towards the end of this month, but is not definitely fixed. The conquerors will be the winners of the largest number of games in the first round.

PAPERS RECEIVED.

Dubuque Chess Journal, Gentlemen's Journal, European Mail, Land and Water, Australasian 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th February.

WHIST.

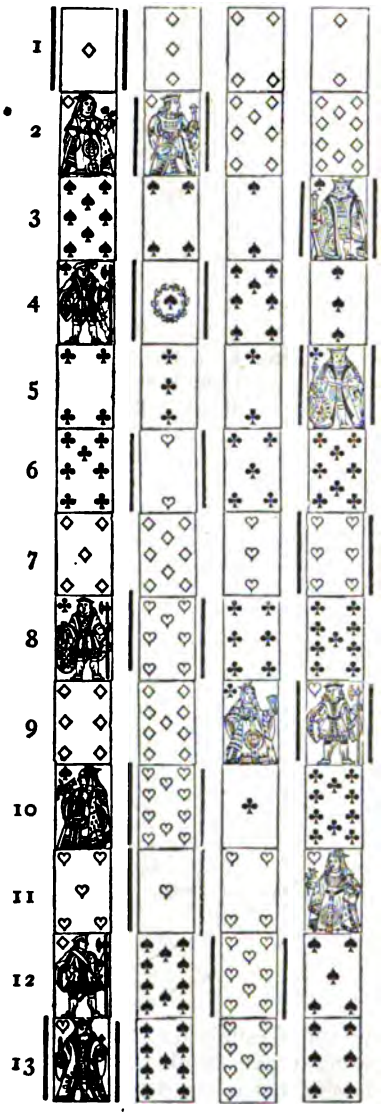
A. and B. play against X. and Z. A. leads. The card with the double rim wins, and the card below the rimmed card is the next one led.

These Three Hands were played in the recent Match between the Cavendish and Westminster Clubs.

HAND No. 91.

Score love all. Z. turns up H Q.

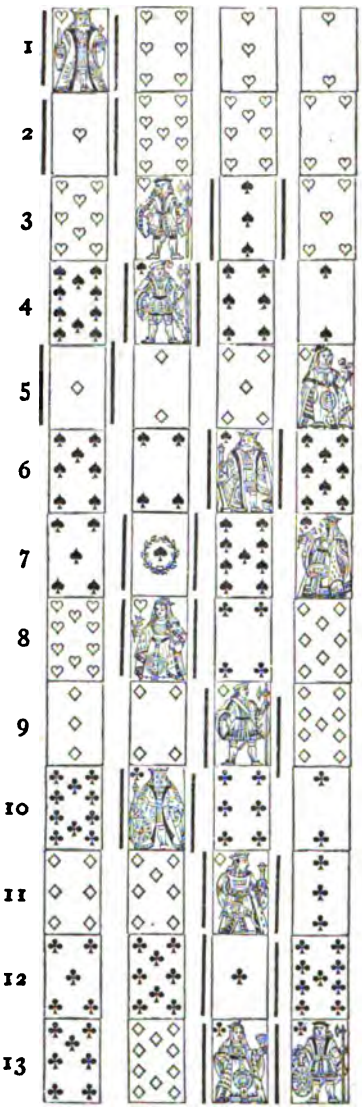
X's Hand.—D Kg, 9, 8, 3; H A, 10, 7, 2; S A, 10, 9, 4; C 3.



HAND No. 92.

Score love. Z turns up S Q.

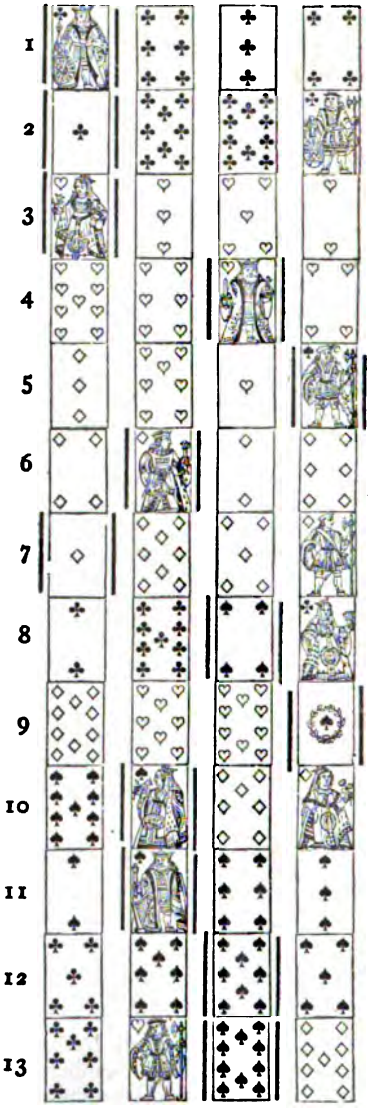
X's Hand.—H Qn, Kv, 9, 6; C Kg, 8; S A, Kv, 4; D, 10, 7, 4, 2.



HAND No. 93.

Score love all. Z turns up S Kv.

Z's Hand.—S Ace, Kv, 5, 3; H 4, 2; C Q Kv, 4; D Qn, Kv, 9, 6.



HAND No. 91.

Notes.—3. Observe, X knows that the whole of the Diamonds are in A's hand, because it is clear that he has the Kv; and as the 7 is dropped by B, and the 10 by Z, therefore the other two Diamonds must be in A's hand. It is much better play to open the Spade suit than to lead the C first.

HAND No. 92.

Notes.—4. B having C Ace, Qn, and D Kg, Kv, conceives that his best lead is a trump. 5. To our mind the best play here was the H Q. X must assume that B led from strength, and in any event the lead must be a very awkward card for him. It is clear that A has the other H. 6. Again we think Mogul ought to have played the S A.

HAND No. 93.

The following Notes are by Emgeen.—Trick 6. Z holding best Club, with strength in Diamonds, and knowing his partner to have the command in Hearts, should now lead a small trump, and not be deterred from doing so by the fear that he was leading up to the strong hand. There is no positive knowledge that B is strong in trumps; and even if he be, not much harm can accrue. It is almost a Whist axiom to lead trumps when you are master of your adversaries suits and have strength in the remaining one that has not been led. Had Z played correctly, he would have scored game in place of losing two by cards.

WESTMINSTER CHESS CLUB WHIST CHALLENGE CUP.

THE following are the conditions on which the Cup is held :—

1. The Club presents £10 to purchase a Cup, to be contended for in Whist matches between Clubs, and to be held on the following terms :—

2. The holders for the time being shall be bound to accept a challenge sent by any existing Club, and shall fix two days, not being Sundays, to play the match, such two days to be within one month of the receipt of such challenge.

3. Any Club challenging the holders of the Cup shall stake the sum of £2 with the Treasurer of the Westminster Chess Club, which sum shall be forfeited on the non-appearance of the full complement of players of the challengers at the time appointed for play. The £2 shall be paid to the winning Club.

4. The holders of the Cup shall not be bound to accept any challenge involving play in the months of August or September; nor to play a match within six weeks of the last match.

5. The play shall take place at the Club of the holders or at the Club of the challengers, or at the Westminster Chess Club. The choice to be at the option of the holders.

6. Four players shall represent each Club. The play shall take place at two tables, on two days, from four o'clock to half-past six in the afternoon, and from 8.30 of the same evening, until twenty rubbers are completed each day at each table. The captains of the sides may change the hours of play by consent. On the first day of play the challengers shall elect which two of their players shall play at table 1 and table 2 respectively, and the holders shall oppose those players as they please. On the second day of play the holders shall elect which two of their players shall play at the respective tables, and the challengers shall oppose them as they please. The side gaining the largest total of points at the two tables in the two days' play shall be the winners; or, if points are equal, the largest number of rubbers; should both points and rubbers be equal, then five additional rubbers shall be played, as may be arranged between the captains, to decide the match. The points to be 10s. points, to be paid in ready money, except by the agreement of the captains of the two sides. Betting optional.

7. The challenged Club may elect, or the Captains of the two Clubs may arrange, to play three players against three players, thus making one full table; in which event, one player on each side—to be chosen in the usual manner—shall leave the table each rubber in favour of the players sitting out, and the players shall retire by rotation. In this event the captains of the two Clubs may agree whether the match shall be forty or sixty rubbers. If there be no special agreement on this head the number shall be sixty.

8. No substitute shall be allowed for any player once playing in a match except by consent, or unless a player shall be prevented by illness or business from playing, the cause to be stated in a letter from the captain of the one side to the captain of the other.

9. When the Cup is handed to the winning Club, two members of that Club shall sign an agreement with the Treasurer for the time being of the Westminster Chess Club, that the Cup shall be held subject to the laws and conditions for the time being relating thereto.

10. If the holders fail to name two days of play within the time herein fixed, or fail to accept the challenge, or fail to play, the Cup shall be returned to the Westminster Chess Club, who shall accept the challenge or resign the Cup to the Club that has challenged, and return the entrance fee. The challenges to be accepted in their order. In the event of there being more than one challenge at the same time, the holders of the Cup may require the two challengers first to play together, and shall then play the winner only, provided that such two matches shall take place within two months from the receipt of the second challenge. The challenges shall be sent to the Secretary of the Westminster Chess Club, who shall register the time at which he receives the same.

11. The Club in which the match is played shall find cards, tables, and other implements of play, with necessary refreshments for the players (dinner excluded); but if the match is played in the room of the Westminster Chess Club by two other Clubs, each of such Clubs shall pay £1 each day for the expenses and refreshments.

12. In the event of any difference of opinion between the players on questions of Whist law the same shall be decided by the editor of the *Westminster Papers*, if present. In the event of his absence or of his playing, then by a referee, to be chosen by the players at the table at which the dispute may arise. If they are unable to agree on a referee, the players at the other table shall decide the point, or arrange how it is to be decided, or failing this, the senior member of the Committee on the premises shall name a referee. The decision of the referee, whether right or wrong, and whether improperly appointed or not, shall be binding.

13. The captains of the contending Clubs shall have power to make special bye-laws for each match.

14. If there be any dispute as to the meaning of these laws the Committee of the Westminster Chess Club shall decide the dispute. And the Committee shall have power, from time to time, to alter and amend the laws or conditions under which the Cup shall be held.

15. If the Club which holds the Cup is situated more than twenty miles from town the play shall take place in the Westminster Chess Club rooms, or in the Club rooms of the challengers.

16. Any Club not now in existence and being desirous of playing for the Cup shall apply to the Committee of the Westminster Chess Club, who shall, on sufficient proof, certify that such new Club is qualified to play.

17. The members of the Clubs playing shall, on the days of play, be honorary members of the Club at which the match takes place, and be entitled to the ordinary privileges of members of such Club.

18. No member of a Club shall be eligible to play until he has been a member of such Club for six months, nor if he be a member of the then opposing Club.

THE LATE WHIST MATCH.

MOGUL desires us to state that the Cavendish Club, in its corporate capacity, did not challenge the Westminster. It was the Whist players of the Cavendish only that gave the challenge and played. Mogul further suggests that it would be more satisfactory to give the numbers of honours that were scored on each side in addition to the number of honours and the number of trumps that each side held as we gave them in our last. The result of this examination shews that on the two days at table 1 the Westminster held two by honours 53 times, and four by honours seven times. Adding 28 for the four by honours scored to the 53, this shews that the Westminster scored by honours 81. The Cavendish had two by honours 43 times, and four by honours 11 times, adding as before 44 for the 11 times to the 43 and we have 87, or a balance of six scored in favour of the Cavendish.

At table 2 on the second day the Westminster scored two by honours 22 times, and four by honours three times; the Cavendish scored two by honours 23 times, and four by honours once. There were 101 hands played; in four of which the score was not kept. This leaves 97 hands. The total honours held by the Westminster was 189, and by the Cavendish 199. The number of trumps held by the Westminster was 625, and by the Cavendish 636. This to our mind tends to shew that the play of the Cavendish at table 2 was superior to that of the Westminster, because taking the trumps and honours scored as a basis (an unsound basis we admit) it cannot be said that there is any such superiority of trumps as to account for the loss of 17 points that occurred at this table.

NON-OBSERVANCE OF RULES.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—I saved a game rather cleverly, I think, a day or two ago. If *you* think so, you may care to have this letter—not so much to parade my cleverness, as to afford an example that rules in *close* cases must sometimes be departed from.

We were left with six cards each and wanted five tricks to save the game. Trumps had been played three times evenly; our opponents had the thirteenth. Diamonds had also gone round three times; our opponents won all, and had the thirteenth left. A Heart was led from my right. I held—the two suits never having been touched—H A, K; C A, K and a small one of each. *Secundum artem*, I should have put on my K, but I let it go, on the chance of my partner winning. He did so with the Kv, played a Club. I won A and K, and then A, K of H, and saved the game. Had I put on my H K the adversary's Q would have made. L. O.

[Our correspondent, of course, played correctly. It would be folly to play on any theoretical system in this position. He wanted all the tricks but one, and he took the most likely way of getting it. If the thirteenth Diamond and the thirteenth trump are in one hand the game could not be saved.—ED.]

DOUBLE DUMMY.

HAND No. L. By F. H. LEWIS.

A's HAND.—D 6, 5; H 5, 4, 3, 2; C A, Kg, 9; S A, Qn, 6, 5.

X's HAND.—D 8, 4, 3, 2; H 9, 8; C 5, 4, 3, 2; S 9, 8, 7.

B's HAND.—D A, K, Q, 7; H A, Q, 7; C 8, 7, 6; S Kv, 10, 4.

Z's HAND.—D Kv, 10, 9; H K, Kv, 10, 6; C Q, Kv, 10; S K, 3, 2.

D trumps. A to lead, and A and B to make five by cards.

WHIST ANECDOTES IN VERSE.

No. I.

THERE was once a well-known Whist-player, a wily, crafty wight,
Who was blest—or curst, as may be—with a penetrating sight,
And at one time he would hazard, the most unheard-of guesses;
At another time he'd revel, in the wildest of finesses.
So keen were his (third hand) perceptions, nothing seemed to blind him—
For instance, he'd finesse Ace, nine, and find the eight behind him.

Our friend was playing, at the Club, one melting day in June,
With a funny Frenchman to his right, that sultry afternoon;
And when the Frenchman's turn to play arrived, he made a pause,
So marked and so extremely long, his partner asked the cause.
The foreigner replied, "Ce, Monsieur, la!—*he* understand,
I only vait till he 'ave done a lookin' at my hand!"

And as he spoke, he turned, and smiled upon our friend, the lynx-eyed,
Who grew quite pale, and said, "I hope there's no one here who [thinks I'd
Take so shameful an advantage as that you just have heard;
I never *dreamt* of looking at your cards, sir, on my word."
"Vell, vell; I'm glad you didn't," said the Frenchman, "so I say,
Mille pardons, but I vish you vouldn't look so moch my vay."

At length the rub was over, and the big bell rang for dinner,
And that dear, facetious Frenchman (with his partner), was the winner.
But the Frenchman still had kept his cards, almost upon the table,
Tho' his partner frowned and coughed, and warned as well as he was able,
But the foreigner was listless—heeding neither cough nor frown;
Nay, the more his partner writhed, the more *he* kept his weapons down.

But when the "lynx-eyed" left the room, the partner hinted mildly,
"How *could* you be so thoughtless—to expose your hand so wildly?
If you *must* play with a man like that, do all that you are able
To spoil his plans—if needful, keep your cards beneath the table.
When you see a mad dog near, your duty surely is—to muzzle him."
The Frenchman smiled, "I only shew him von or two—to puzzle him."

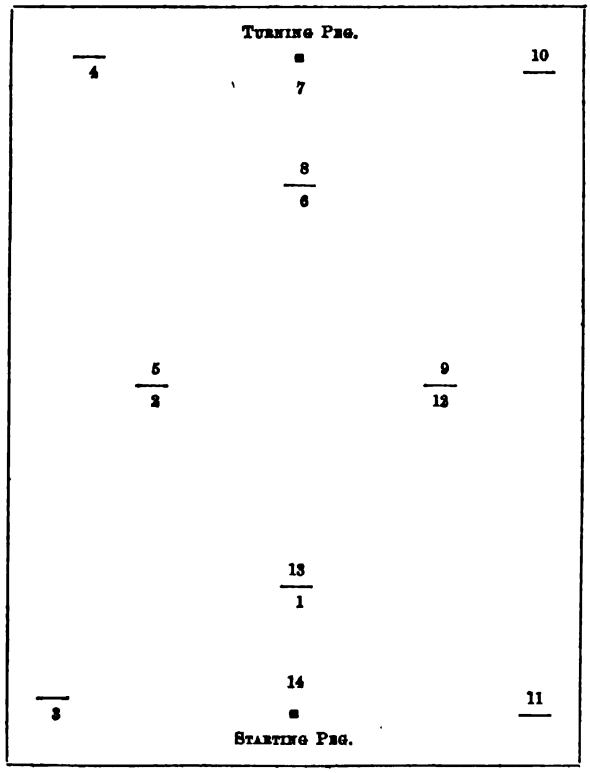
V. R.

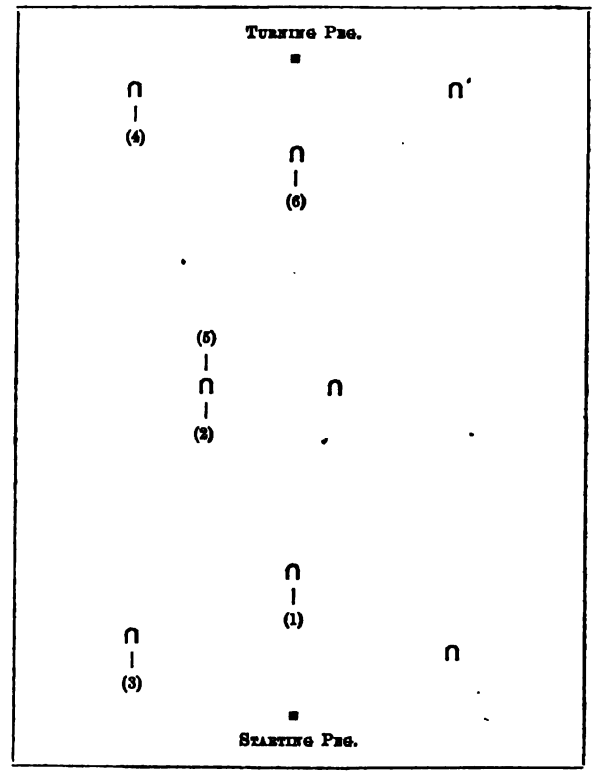
CROQUET.

WE resume, with the warm weather, the somewhat warm subject of Croquet. It needs no apology to Chess and Whist when we announce that we intend to devote some space during the Season to a game which is popular from St. Petersburgh to Colombo. We see a suggestion in our contemporary, *The Field*, that the fixtures of matches and tournaments should be sent by the Secretaries of Clubs to the Papers; the suggestion is a good one (albeit not altogether novel), and we shall be happy to receive from Secretaries due notice of their meetings, which it will give us great pleasure to insert. The only meetings announced up to this time are: a Club Meeting of the All England Croquet Club, to take place on the 2nd of May; and the following days the contest for the championship, which has been fixed by the National Croquet Club for the 10th and 11th of May, at Oxford; and a Prize Meeting at Cheltenham for the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th of June. There is also a meeting of the All England Croquet Club on July 4th to determine who is the champion of that Club. This, however, will be, of course, a meeting of secondary importance to the great event of the year, viz., the contest at Oxford for the supremacy. This may be stated as the great Cook-and-Roberts match of Croquet. The object of the National Croquet Club (the Club which chiefly represents the country, just as the All England Croquet Club represents London and its environs) is to make such an entrance fee that no indifferent players are likely to contest, while at the same time it shall not be sufficiently high to deter any one from playing who might have a chance of carrying off the liberal prize offered. The winner in the last round will sweep the stakes, with 10 guineas added by the National Croquet Club, and the Whitmore Challenge Cup. We understand that from five to eight players are expected to enter; but we should doubt if so many players will be found. The entrance fee is $2\frac{1}{2}$ guineas, which we consider to be a better sum than 5 guineas. As at Billiards there are four players who stand out prominently from the host of players, so there are four at Croquet, though we know that some players count as many as five, viz., Peel, Riky, Law, Muntz and Whitmore. Of these Peel and Muntz have the coolest nerve, Riky and Whitmore most knowledge of the game, and Law the most wonderful execution. The badge of the old original National Croquet Club was won last year by Mr. Law, who beat Mr. Whitmore, after the latter gentleman had defeated Mr. Peel. Mr. Muntz and Mr. Riky came against Mr. Whitmore in the contest at Wimbledon last year, the latter gentleman being victorious after a hard contest. The final match between Mr. Whitmore and Mr. Peel, though given against the former gentleman, cannot be considered as a real criterion of skill, owing to the well-known error of the umpire; and, again, Mr. Peel's defeat by Mr. Whitmore on the Marlboro' Ground is hardly to be taken as a guide of skill, owing to the badness of the turf. It is therefore a very open matter who shall carry off the cup and sweepstakes at Merton. Nor is it beyond the bounds of possibility that some player in the second flight may not come to

the front. One year in Croquet makes very often a great difference, and players of the second order are not to be counted by units but by tens. To mention some of the best known, we would give the names of Hale, Gattaker, Sharpe, Joad, Heath, Maycock, Soames, Henty, Jones, Lane, Dalton. Of these, the first three players stand somewhat forward; but owing to Mr. Hale's ill-health we should give the preference to Gattaker and Sharpe. Mr. Heath, however, has the advantage of years, and may at any time come out as one of the first players. The prize offered is much larger than anything which has yet been given at Croquet. Steady nerve will be nearly as useful as superior skill, but we may be sure that nothing but a mixture of the two will stand a chance. We have heard vaguely of three dark players, one a cousin of Mr. Muntz's, who is said to have made extraordinary progress in the game during the last year. So near, however, do we consider the chances of victory to be that we believe it would be safe betting to offer 3 to 1 against any single player with five entries. With respect to the contest itself, it will, we need not say, be regulated according to the most advanced state of science. The hoops are to be $4\frac{1}{2}$ span, which is the narrowest that has ever been played with yet, or indeed announced. The setting is to be the 8-hoop setting, which was brought in by the National Croquet Club last year, and is likely to be the one generally adopted. For those who may be puzzled with the variety and novelty of the settings which appeared last year, which was enough to confuse any one, we subjoin a diagram of this way of placing the hoops. The numbers are placed on the side from which the respective hoops are run.

Eight Hoop Setting.—Enclosed by way of further illustration.





ATTENDANCE AT CROQUET MEETINGS.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—I see a statement in the *Field* of the 22nd which amuses me much. In speaking of the Conference Rules it is said, that the largest Prize Meeting ever held was conducted by the light of these rules, last year, on the Club ground at Wimbledon, and the result was highly satisfactory. It may perhaps be that London is not yet inoculated with the rage of Croquet, or that the locality at Wimbledon is awkward, or that a contest continued over four days would tire the most enthusiastic player in the world. Whatever the cause may be I know not—but this I do know, that I went on the last day of the tournament last year, when the cup was being contested for by the two last players in, and when the interest might be supposed to have culminated, and there was not positively a score of people on the ground. If this is a result highly satisfactory, I should like to ask what is an unsatisfactory result?

SPECTATOR.

NATIONAL CROQUET CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP CONTEST.

THE annual contest for the Championship (open to all comers) will take place on the 10th and 11th May, on the ground of the Merton College Cricket Club, Oxford (by permission).

The play will be for a Sweepstakes, and the Whitmore Challenge Cup, with 10 guineas added by the N.C.C. The second player to save his stakes. Entrance 2½ guineas. Conference Rules, with 4½ inch hoops, and setting of the N.C.C. Best of 5 games. Names to be sent to Walter Holloway, Esq., Ivy House, Charlbury, on or before 3rd May. The draw will take place at 10.30 a.m. 10th May, on the ground. Play to commence at 11.

WALTER HOLLOWAY, *Hon. Sec.*

DRAMATIC NOTES.

THOSE of our readers who may take the trouble to read the Preface to this, the First Number of the Fourth Volume of the *Westminster Papers*, will observe that we record our satisfaction that some of the reforms that we have persistently advocated in these columns are being agitated in theatrical circles. Were we inclined to sing a pœan of triumph, we might blazon the fact that we were the first to suggest a revision of the system of free admissions. Two theatres have now voluntarily issued decrees for the abolition of free admissions, and the example of these two will probably be shortly followed by many others, for theatrical managers are very like the flock of sheep that followed their leader over the bridge, though we trust the parallel will not hold good in its disastrous results. We say advisedly that this movement was voluntary, for though caustic criticism on authors and actors has been increasing in many quarters for the last year or so, no interference has been attempted with the internal administration of theatres,—with one exception. The exception is the critic of the *London Figaro*, and we are bound to say that he did not open his mouth till after the two theatres had taken action, although, the floodgates of his speech once loosened, he has discoursed wisely and eloquently on the point. We gladly hail so distinguished an ally, but as there is a skeleton in every cupboard, we should like to know whether this critic has the courage to state his opinions "in another place," and adopt the same creditable tactics in a Sunday paper of large circulation as he does in a Saturday periodical of no circulation at all, and whose advertisement columns are of the most meagre extent. It has come to this, that in literary as well as in political circles, expediency is the law which every man deems himself bound to follow. Let us not however quarrel with the means by which good results are arrived at. The Court Theatre deserves credit for courageously initiating this work of reform, as well as for the liberal way in which the management provides both for the mental recreation and physical comforts of its audience. The Queen's Theatre, which has followed suit, is apparently blind to the stultification of its own past policy, which is contained in the statement that the paying public has been hitherto "humbugged;" but perseverance in a better path will condone its past tactics and its ill-written recantation. But, oh, ye Managers, is there no mental reservation in all this profession of good behaviour? And, ye critics, when you preach piously on the immorality and folly of free admissions, do you not make an exception in favour of the members who compose that "brilliant audience" who attend on first nights? One would suppose that brilliant people would be able to pay their way, but able or not, they are the last persons to do so, and the more shining a light may be, the more eager is that light to be on the free list.

Such is the extraordinary number and variety of theatrical entertainments now being presented in London that it is impossible to keep pace with them, and our readers must look elsewhere for a complete inventory. In addition to some twenty theatres, among which the Alhambra is now numbered, two opera houses, and three companies of French artistes, now seek the suffrages of the British public. The Gaiety Theatre, which, though heedless in the matter of good taste and morality, is perhaps the best managed in London, has set the example of giving morning performances or matinées for the benefit of suburban playgoers; and, in a word, we are being gorged with theatrical food. Whether the quality is equal to the quantity is open to doubt; but that many managers will find themselves landed in the Bankruptcy Court is a matter of certainty. But in the modern race for pleasure the Devil takes the hindmost, and the public, which must have its excitement, will take equal delight in the present bill of fare and in the future list of managerial liabilities. There is certainly plenty of variety in the food presented: modern comedy, fairy comedy, operatic comedy, melodrama, historical spectacle, burlesque, opera bouffe, and every specimen of dramatic *cuisine* may be indulged in, but Shakspeare and the legitimate drama seem to be permanently banished to Clerkenwell and Southwark. It is, therefore, with some astonishment that we read that Mr. Pennington has issued a challenge, to act Shakspeare against anybody for a thousand pounds. With still greater incredulity we have heard that the challenge has been taken up; for though we can easily imagine that there are plenty of Jews and Gentiles ready and willing to stake large sums of money on the legs of one lady or the general symmetry of another, we can hardly believe that any one cares a penny about Shakspeare. The feature of the day, however, is neither Shakspeare nor symmetrical ladies. These latter of course are never quite out of fashion, but as a commercial success they are at present put out of court by organs and apotheoses, without which very few plays are now considered to be properly produced.

We have them in *Nell*, at the Olympic; *Joan of Arc*, at the Queen's; *Esmeralda*, at the Adelphi; and *Faust and Marguerite*, at the Princess's; and, in justice to the organist, he should at least have his name published in company with the gas-master and the property-man. Should some enterprising manager think fit to produce *Hamlet*, we have no doubt that he would introduce plenty of organ, and add an apotheosis. As most of the leading characters are killed off there would be no violation of probability. Care, however, should be taken to provide a nebular contrivance sufficiently strong to bear a "heavy" tragedian; and some arrangement would be necessary with the gravediggers, whose vested interests would be interfered with. This encroachment on the rights of the church, in the matter of organ music, we conceive to be of a parallel with the conduct of the licensed victuallers. These saw their rivals, the grocers, retailing wine, so they sold pounds of tea. Managers, indignant at the introduction of theatrical processions in new-fashioned churches, appropriate the organ and the angels in revenge. There should be reciprocity in all things.

Since we last wrote, Mr. Albery's second venture, *The Two Thorns*, has come and gone, after an existence which in these days of theatrical longevity must be pronounced very brief. In this play the author discarded the line which he had struck out in the *Two Roses*, and aimed rather at giving an imitation of the comedy writers of the last century. The play was no doubt intended to be a comedy of intrigue, but comedies of intrigue, to avoid becoming offensive and dull, should be the work of a delicate and a master hand. Mr. Albery merely succeeded in stringing together a number of farcical incidents, which, however comical in themselves, were out of place in an ambitious work. The intrigue portion of the play was indifferently worked out, and such was the lack of morality displayed that the *jeune premier*, after flirting with a married woman throughout the piece, accepts her step-daughter as a wife at the conclusion, without going through the process of courtship. Still less worthy of the name of a comedy is Mr. B. H. Dixon's *Behind a Mask*. Brevity is a very desirable thing in plays; but when a piece, called a comedy, is played out in an hour-and-a-half, most part of which time is devoted to a representation of private theatricals which has nothing to do with the story, brevity is obtained at the expense of construction. Containing some smart writing, the piece might be acceptable as a two act comedietta, though the plot has no pretensions to novelty. It is always pleasant, however, to meet with good acting, and very creditable if not always good acting is on the increase. Mr. Farren, in *Two Thorns*, and Messrs. Wood, Bishop, and Flockton, in *Behind a Mask*, displayed an unusual amount of talent. The most ambitious effort now before the public is Mr. Tom Taylor's new history of *Joan of Arc*, which has been presented at the Queen's Theatre for the purpose of displaying Mrs. Rousby to her admirers in a new character. We may at once say that Mrs. Rousby does her best, and works as hard as a woman can to impress the audience with the belief that she is a great actress. That success does not attend her efforts is partly due to the fact that, in *'Twixt Axe and Crown*, she had a character which appealed directly to the Protestant and patriotic sympathies of the British public, and partly because *Joan of Arc* is a much inferior work to Mr. Tom Taylor's previous adaptation, and is written more in the interest of the stage manager. Besides several of Mrs. Rousby's former allies have deserted her. On the occasion of the production of *'Twixt Axe and Crown* critics and photographers vied with each other in enthusiasm at her beauty and abilities, and the result of their cohesion and support was a long run and complete success. It was hinted at the time in these Papers that the lady was somewhat overweighted, and was more adapted to parts of a lighter nature, and it is therefore with a clear conscience that we are able to denounce the critic of the *Daily Telegraph* for the ungallant and ungenerous way in which he has deserted his colours, and abused Mrs. Rousby's *Joan of Arc*. This is one of those instances, so trying to the temper of true lovers of the stage, where a critic, possessing great ability, and wielding immense power, prefers to write in the interest of his employers to giving vent to his own opinion. The critic of the *Telegraph* praised Mrs. Rousby as the Princess Elizabeth, but in reviewing *Joan of Arc* declares the lady to be no actress, but merely a pretty woman. If his second verdict is a conscientious one, what are we to think of the first? but if he holds to the first, the second is a piece of mean spite, written to please somebody else,—unworthy of an honest critic. As regards the play, it is creditable to Mr. Taylor, that though he could not succeed in writing a work of literary merit, he has avoided introducing any spurious interest not justified by history. The spurious interest is left to the stage manager, who, in a representation of the coronation of Charles VII., has achieved a splendid success. The scenery and effects throughout are indeed magnificent, and due regard has been paid to the claims of the organ and the apotheosis. The last we understand has now been discontinued, but the organ still remains in great force. The lighting of the stake at which Joan is burnt is an unnecessary piece of realism, but, whilst agreeing in the general condemnation of this attempt at *ex luce lucellum*, we repudiate that "storm of hisses" which the *Telegraph* critic declares to have taken place. When on the first night we observed, with astonished eyes, the assistants about to set fire to the faggots, we held our breath in expectation of the storm of hisses which we naturally anticipated. But the storm never came, and the affair was viewed with indifference. One or two may have hissed, and a great many more in the stalls may have wished to do so, but lacked the moral courage to inaugurate a precedent which might in turn be used against themselves; and the will cannot always be taken for the deed, even in the case of dramatic critics.

Of other proceedings our chronicle must be brief. We are told by advertisement that the old glories of the Adelphi are revived in *Notre Dame*. However that may be, *Notre Dame* is the best acted and best adorned play that has been seen on these boards for some time. In one instance, that of Mr. Fernandez, there is even

good acting; but Miss Furtado's notion of pathetic gesture is still of the coffee-grinder order, and Mrs. Mellon's extraordinary and utterly hideous shrieks and noises in the prison scene could only be rivalled by Mr. Britain Wright suffering under an attack of hydrophobia; otherwise the performance is meritorious, and the last scene is extremely well managed. At the Princess's, the Kean version of *Faust* is being performed, a version that is more compact and more enjoyable than that written some years ago by Mr. Bayle Bernard for Drury Lane. The principal figure is the Mephistopheles of Mr. Phelps, whose acting is always acceptable, and whose conception of the character is more artistic than that of the late Mr. Charles Kean. The Court Theatre has presented another fairy comedy, from the pen of Mr. Gilbert, who seems content at present to furbish up his Chrismas stories for the stage. The Gaiety is busy with operatic doings, which do not fall within our province. Whilst acknowledging the completeness and taste with which everything is put on the stage at this theatre, we must protest against the reckless fashion in which the manager endeavours to inoculate his audience with a taste for indecency in dress and dialogue. This sort of thing should be better left to such establishments as the Globe Theatre, the managers of which put their faith in a lengthy list of female names, all of them of aristocratic sound, but none of them known to dramatic fame. With this phalanx an attempt is made to produce Offenbach's tuneful operas on the English stage; but as the strength of the company lies chiefly in their limbs any attempt to make use of their heads results in failure, and the audience will probably be confined to the frequenters of the Argyll Rooms and the Holborn Casino.

We must postpone till another occasion anything more than a brief notice that there are now three French companies performing in London. The visit of the company of the Theatre Français is very welcome, but much of the interest in their coming is diminished by the exorbitant charges for admission which are being levied, and which must debar many good judges and true lovers of art from witnessing their performances. M. Raphael Felix is this year at the Lyceum, and the production of *Les Pattes de Mouche* and *Nos Intimes* has given Mdlle. Fargueil good opportunities of displaying her powers. Without endorsing that extravagant eulogy which our critics think fit to bestow on all French actors, eulogy which is always accompanied by wholesale and unnecessary detraction of the English stage, we are bound to notice the remarkable completeness with which the smallest characters are represented on the French stage. That this is not the case with us is more the fault of the managers than the actors. Good actors are exceedingly plentiful; but as a reference to the columns of the *Era* will prove, a good many of them are either scattered over the face of the country, or else without engagements. The fact being that managers deem it against their interest, or are unable, from want of tact, to keep good companies together.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CHESS.

C. A. Gilberg.—5s received for copy of M. Sanson's work.

[*Other answers are unavoidably postponed.*]

WHIST.

We have been favoured with the following remarks on Hand 29, by Mogul:—"When Z, at trick 10, discarded the Queen (the best), having three other cards in his hand, which could not be three winning Hearts, as A himself held the second best Heart, A should have felt certain that Z did not hold even the best Heart, as otherwise, whatever his other cards might be, unless the Heart 10 was a false card, he could have retained the Queen. With all deference to Emgeen, I fail to see the brilliancy of Z's discard at trick 10, which, to my notion, should have been the Heart Knave, as more likely to induce A to lead a Spade."

J. N. M.—A and B, partners, are at score of four, C and D are love. B revokes, and at the end of the hand it is found that but for the revoke A and B have eight tricks and C and D the remaining five. C and D elect to take the penalty in tricks, reducing the eight tricks to five. Can they *also* add the three tricks taken to their own and so score two by tricks?—*Ans.* "But for the revoke" is rather an indefinite expression. If by revoking B won a trick, that trick he retains. C and D take the three tricks, and add them to their own pack, and this gives them two by cards; but of course they have taken the penalty stupidly, they should have let their adversary's tricks alone, and scored three themselves; and as A and B are at four, there they remain.

Messrs. De la Rue have adopted a new system of wrapping their cards. The outside is the same as usual, but the inside contains the 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's and 6's enclosed in another wrapper, so that if it is desired to play Bézique, Ecarté or Piquet, the division is made without the bother of sorting the cards. This is an improvement we cordially approve. It shews that De la Rue and Co. are attentive to the comfort of their customers, and also that there is no difficulty in placing the cards in an order different to that which has hitherto been adopted. We trust we shall find all our card makers have changed their system of putting the cards together, to avoid the nuisance of so much shuffling at the commencement of each day's play.

R. L. and W. E. G.—Because you hold a very strong hand, it does not justify such reckless play. To obtain confidence you must play steadily, or, when the pinch comes, as come it must, no one will trust you. You treat your plain suits as if they were match makers or Custom House clerks. Whist and Politics would be dreadfully melancholy games if you held all the trumps.

2nd Regiment.—It would not, in our opinion, be good play to put the King on your partner's Queen, Ace falling 2nd hand, when you have King and another only. We do not lay much stress on the possible loss of a trick by that mode of play, but rather that you abandon the simplicity of the game, and tend to confuse and mislead your partner. For some time he must assume you have no more of the suit led, and when your small card falls, he may imagine you are asking for trumps. With Ace and another of a plain suit, King led by your partner, you do not put on your Ace, although the reasoning in favour of that mode of play is stronger King led than Queen led.

D. C. B. (Gray's Inn).—A and B play against X and Z. (1) A leads the King of trumps, which makes, and follows with the Queen, which makes also. Thereupon Z exclaims (with a view to giving up the game), "Oh, then they are four by honours!" X shakes his head, and A then claims to have the Ace of trumps in X's hand an exposed card. Query (a)—Can A's claim be supported? (b) If so, is A's form of claim correct? (c) If A's form of claim is irregular, does A incur any penalty? it being clear from the form of his claim that he holds the Knave of trumps.—*Ans.* A's claim cannot be supported. The shake of the head by X simply means that he will not abandon the game. If it did not mean that, how can it be said he has intimated that he has the Ace rather than the Knave? (2) A's claim is irregular. He has told his partner that X has the Ace, which he clearly has no right to do. (3) We do not think A has incurred a penalty. It is a gross breach of etiquette, but we think nothing more. It is sailing very close to the wind, but we do not think, in law, he has said I have the Knave. All these disputes arise from not recognising that the first principle of Whist is silence. (2) Score love all. Z turns up a small Diamond. A leads the Ace of Clubs, X plays six of Clubs, B seven of Clubs, Z the four of Clubs. A then leads the two of Clubs, X plays the three of Clubs, B discards a small Heart, and Z wins the trick with the five of Clubs. Z's hand consists of one small trump, four small Hearts, three small Spades and the King, Queen, 10 of Clubs, and it is clear that both X and B have asked for trumps, and it is clear to Z that A holds the Knave, nine, eight of Clubs, what ought Z to lead? In the actual play Z led the trump (X held the Queen and four small trumps, and B held the Ace, King, Knave, 10 and nine of trumps) and lost the game.—*Ans.* It is clear X has asked for trumps, B has declared great strength or he has no trump. We think we should have seen which it was with the Club King. We should not find fault with a young player for taking either course, but Z possessed information that his partner did not when he completed his Blue Peter, viz., that the strength was over him, and we should have acted on this information and should not have given the trump. The Club King must be safe, the trump may be destruction.

G. E. (West Brompton).—The Vienna *coup* cannot be defeated by the second hand discarding from his long Heart suit. In spite of your many hours of study we fear that you do not know the solution or the principle involved in it. After the four rounds of trumps try the lead of the Spade Ace, then the small Heart; lead out the five rounds of Hearts and the second hand must make one discard. The first hand throws away the Spade Queen. If the second hand throws away the Spade King the third hand makes the Knave and 10 of Spades. If he retain the Spade King he must throw away a Diamond, in which event the first hand will make his three Diamonds and every trick.

DEALING.—There is a doubt as to which packet a card belongs. What is to be done?—*Ans.* Cavendish, in the *Field* of the 18th ult., says, "The custom is to allow the completion of the deal. If a card is lying doubtfully, the players, after taking up their hands, count them, and the doubtful card is assigned to the player who has but 12 cards." This is a very loose way of construing the laws, and we enter a mild protest against such laxity. It is the duty of the dealer to deal the cards into packets, and if there be a doubt as to the position of any card it is his duty to solve the doubt by placing the cards to one or the other players, and if he puts it to the wrong pack it is a misdeal.

DOUBLE DUMMY.—Mr. Fraser's Problem.—It has been suggested that the problem would be better if the second and fourth hands as they stand were transposed. Keeping the hands as they are the Queen of Clubs should be changed for the Club seven. The Diamond two, not the seven, should be in B's hand. It is quite immaterial which hand has the two. Please sign your name in your future communications.

PIQUET.

W and W P play together, W claims quint and 14 Aces, and leading out an Ace calls 60 game. On examining W's hand, it is found he has only three Aces, having discarded one. What has to be done?—*Ans.* W can score nothing that hand.

B and J play; B, elder hand, claims six for his point, a quint (15) and a small tierce, total 24. He plays out his six cards, calls 60. J has played to the tricks. J says, "Oh, you are not 60, because I have 14 Kings," and he argues that he is not obliged to call them until he wins a trick.—*Ans.* B is entitled to 60. J must make his claim of 14 before he plays.

L B and R play together. R claims a point of four good, 14 Aces and 14 Kings, 92, and plays an Ace. L B throws down his cards. He has in his hand three tierces. (1) Is B game?—*Ans.* Yes, L B should have stopped the 90 score, and told R that he was only 32; the throwing down the cards is equivalent to playing to the Ace, and then L B was too late to score his tierces. (2) It was not the business of R to remind L B that he may have a tierce.

BAS.—L is 42. M makes 100 by winning the last trick, but L has the cards, and claims to save the double. Does he do so?—*Ans.* No, M is game before L is 50, and is therefore a double. The score must be in order—1st, the point; 2nd, the sequence; 3rd, the quatorze, or threes; 4th, the lead and play of the cards; 5th, the last card; 6th, the cards.

S.—If you win every trick that is a capot, for which you score 40. The 40 includes the 10 for the cards, *i.e.*, you do not score 40 for the capot and 10 for the cards.

D. D., A. S. and B.—Younger hand takes in three cards before elder hand has taken in five. Is there any penalty for this? Elder hand may leave say, two cards, younger hand could not then take in five, having already taken in three, but he has the advantage of playing with cards which elder hand has not seen rather than with the cards that he would have seen. It is clearly a breach of etiquette, and the punishment of not being able to discard the five cards may be sufficient, but the case might occur that the player did not want to take in more than three. If you can enlighten us on this we should be obliged.—*Ans.* There was so much difference of opinion on this point that we thought it best to refer to Mr. Clay, who has kindly written as follows:—"I am not aware of any code of Piquet laws which are complete, although those of Hoyle are of authority, as far as they go. I do not think they provide for this case. If it is referred to me, I have no doubt as to the proper penalty. The elder hand may leave a card, which the younger hand is then compelled to take in. He then plays with 13 cards, and can score nothing. If the elder hand prefer to take in all five cards, there is no penalty."

NOTICE.

All Books intended for review in these Papers must be sent to the Editor, Westminster Chess Club, Caledonian Hotel, Adelphi Terrace. New Patterns of Cards, new Games, or Implements of Play of general interest to our readers, must be addressed to the same place.

The Westminster Papers.

1st JUNE 1871.

THE CHESS WORLD.

"The whisperings of our petty burgh."

THE members of the West Yorkshire Chess Association, comprising the Clubs of Bradford, Huddersfield, Halifax, Leeds, Wakefield and Sheffield, held their sixteenth annual meeting, at Bradford, on the 20th ult., and it appears to have brought together nearly all the best players in the country. That part of the programme which excited most interest was the county match between Yorkshire and Lancashire, for a set of Chessmen and board, valued at £11 11s, presented by the Bradford Club. There were ten players on each side, matched according to their reputed strength, and each pair had to play two games. The following is the score given to us; but we fear there is some inaccuracy in it, for we cannot see how three of the pairs could have left in each case *both* of their games unfinished, unless, indeed, both were played simultaneously, which is, to say the least of it, improbable on such an occasion.

LANCASHIRE.	Won.	YORKSHIRE.	Won.	Drawn.	Unfinished.
Burn	1	Watkinson	1	—	—
Lord	0	Skipworth	0	—	2
Soul	2	Werner	0	—	—
Steinkuhler	0	Parratt	1	—	1
Dufresne	0	Whitman	1	1	—
Grube	0	Young	0	—	2
Burnet	0	Finlinson	1	—	1
Kidson	1	Stokoe	1	—	—
Wood	0	Petty	0	1	1
Johnson	0	Fieldsend	0	—	2
	4		5	2	9

Thus Yorkshire won five games, Lancashire four, and two were drawn, while nine games were abandoned unfinished, owing to the gentlemen from Lancashire being obliged to return by a comparatively early train. There were four tournaments, of which the first was undecided, the final game between Messrs Holliday and Riley having yet to be played. The second was won by Mr. Barker of Bradford, the third by Mr. Fawcett of Wakefield, and the fourth by Mr. A. Finlinson of Huddersfield. A resolution to hold the next meeting at Leeds, in May 1872, was unanimously adopted.

We are glad to record, as an indication of the spread of Chess, in what the politicians call a "vertical" direction, that the Committee of the Working Men's Club, 180 Strand, have offered a prize cup, value £2 2s, to be contested for by the best players of the Clubs in affiliation with that Institution—the cup to become the property of the Club whose champion wins it three years in succession. Mr. Beardsall, of the Bermondsey Working Men's Institute, has already defeated Mr. Bellew, the representative of a similar Association at Nine Elms. We heartily wish the undertaking every success.

The Committee of the Bermondsey Club, 99 Bermondsey-street, have secured the services of Mr. Blackburne, for an exhibition of blindfold play, to take place on Friday the 9th instant, at Seven o'clock in the evening.

The City of London Handicap Tourney ended in the victory of Mr. Potter, after playing seven games, four of which were drawn, one won by Mr. De Vere, and two by Mr. Potter.

An excellent photograph of the late J. B. of Bridport, whose problems have afforded so much pleasure to Chess players all over the world, has been published for the benefit of his widow. Copies, at One Shilling each, may be had upon application to Mr. H. Meyer, Sydenham.

Mr. Blackburne played recently, at Cardiff, six games simultaneously without sight of the board, winning four and drawing two, a performance which our readers will appreciate when we tell them that the Cardiff Club numbers amongst its members some of the strongest players in the provinces, including Mr. Thorold, the present provincial champion. Mr. Blackburne's opponents were—Messrs. Thorold, Fisher, Solomons, Fedden, Rev.

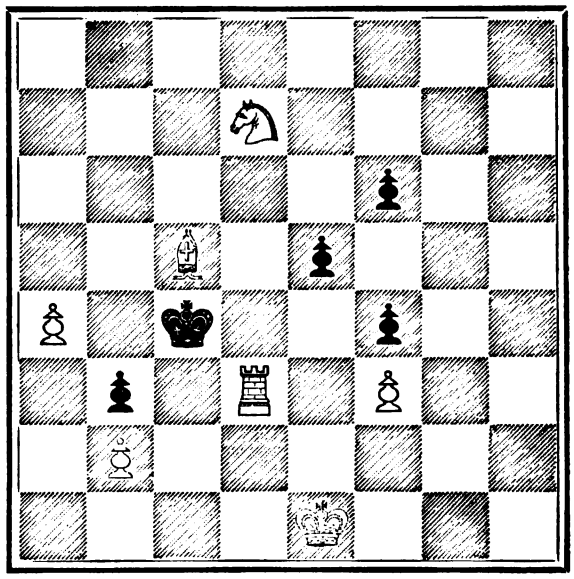
Walter Evans, and at board No. 6 Messrs. Burt and Berry of Bristol in consultation. The blindfold player won at boards Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 5, and drew at Nos. 2 and 6. The meeting was a great success in every respect. A selection of the games will be found in the present number.

The match between the Westminster and the City of London Chess Clubs has been arranged to take place at 7 o'clock on Friday, the 23rd of June, at the rooms of the former, and as there will probably be from eighteen to twenty players on each side, and the match is looked forward to with much interest, we may anticipate the largest gathering of Chess players ever witnessed in the metropolis. Secretaries of other Clubs can obtain tickets of admission, to be distributed among their members, upon application to the Secretaries of the Westminster and City of London Clubs.

We learn from Australia that the Handicap Tourney at Adelaide has terminated in the victory of Mr. Steele, who won every game he played.

In Melbourne Chess has an able supporter in the *Australasian*, a weekly newspaper, which devotes a portion of its space to games and problems. For the benefit of our home composers, who we know are curious in such matters, we give a neat little specimen of colonial skill in the latter branch of Chess. The problem is by Mr. Lulman, of the Melbourne Club.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

The world is indebted to America for many novelties in the regions of science and art, and we have now to credit her with a new Chess Opening. We give an illustrative game culled from the *Dubuque Chess Journal.* The Opening is called the

GRAB GAMBIT.

White Mr. J Hazeltine.	Black. Parlour Player.
1. P to K B 4	1. P to K B 4
2. P to K 4	2. B P takes P
3. Q to R 5 ch	3. P to K Kt 3
4. B to K 2	4. P takes Q

It is from this move that the Opening derives its expressive title.

5. B takes P mate.

We may expect to see this gambit very generally "declined." The *Dubuque Chess Journal* should have special interest for problem composers, for much attention is bestowed upon that branch of the game, and the Problem Tourney, which commenced in January last, is still open to competitors.

We learn from *The Brooklyn Index* that an interesting exhibition of blindfold play took place recently at the Brooklyn Club. The game was played by six players, three on each side, two of whom were without sight of the board, and each player moved alternately, without consulting his partners. The game was a good one, considering the novel conditions under which it was contested. The players were Messrs. Mackenzie, Delmar and Ware on the one side, and Messrs. Gilberg, De Con and Brenzinger on the other, the two first-named on each side being the blindfold players.

The Index, besides its ably-edited Chess column, devotes a column to Draughts, and, referring, to a tournament among the players of that game held at Detroit, quotes the following *bonne bouche* from a local paper :— "Detroit is rousing herself to competition. Alive to the complex perils of her situation, she is determined to conquer or die. She goes into a rivalry with her sister cities with an energy that foreshadows a brilliant career. She begins to-day with a grand checker tournament, to continue all the week. Eminent gentlemen from all quarters of the peninsula will rally thereat. Detroit is feeble in commerce, but she is powerful in checkers; as a checkerist she has few superiors. The mysteries of Chess and the marvellous complications of Billiards are too much for her, but Michigan ranks high in the Draught world. Next week, we understand, Detroit will have a Jackstraw tournament, and some time in April a tournament to repeat the remarks which Simon makes concerning the attitude of the human thumbs."

We understand *The Liverpool Albion* is about to have a Chess column once a week.

Our problem composers resident in England will bear in mind that the problems for the Westminster Chess Club Tournament must be sent in by the 14th July. We may mention that Mr. Portilla has requested permission to compete, and on referring the matter to the judges and the Committee, they have decided that, as a member of the University of Cambridge, and holder of a scholarship therein, he is eligible. We think it advisable to announce this to prevent disputes in the event of Mr. Portilla proving one of the successful competitors.

For the following we are indebted to Mr. G. B. Fraser, of Dundee:—

The largest and most numerously attended Chess competition which has ever taken place in Scotland was held in Edinburgh on Saturday, in the grand saloon of the Balmoral Hotel. Upwards of eighty players assembled to take part in the proceedings, but as only twenty-eight came forward on the part of the West of Scotland, it was arranged that the match should consist of a like number of players on the side of the East, paired against them in order of strength, and the winners should be determined by the side whose aggregate score was largest. Several of the leading members of the Glasgow Club having failed to come forward, the committee for the Eastern players courteously agreed to the request expressed by that of the West, and withdrew the names of Mr. G. B. Fraser and Dr. Fraser from the lists, in order more approximately to equalise the respective sides. The non-combatants, on this account, consented to accept of one game each as forfeit. The contest commenced about noon, and was steadily kept up until 7 P.M., when it was found that the East were victors, the score being 42 against 28 gained by the West. Some very fine play occurred in course of the match, but perhaps the best and most toughly-contested battle was that between Mr. W. N. Walker of Dundee and Mr. Tait from Ayrshire—the latter a young player of great promise, and, as we understand, by far the strongest on the Western side. This game occupied about five hours, and was ultimately scored by the Dundee player, who exhibited his usual skill and accuracy in all its various phases. It has fortunately been preserved for one of the Chess periodicals. The greatest good feeling prevailed throughout the whole competition, and the services of Sheriff Glassford Bell, who kindly accepted the duties of umpire, were happily unneeded. A number of distinguished visitors attended the rooms during the day, and watched the various contests with great interest. The success attending this gathering, notwithstanding the hurried manner in which it was entered upon, has, we are glad to learn, evoked a desire on the part of all engaged in the competition to repeat the experiment on a more extensive scale during the coming autumn. We append a list of the combatants, with their respective scores, from which it will be noticed that the Dundee Club contributed very largely in bringing victory to the side on which they fought.

Edinburgh Club.	West of Scotland.		Games. Won.	Lost.	Drawn.
Colonel Robertson	v. Jenkins,	Glasgow,	0	1	2
John Nimmo	v. Hunter,	do.	1	2	0
C. Meikle	v. Craig,	do.	1	1	1
Dr. Robertson	v. Hunt,	do.	2	0	1
Dr. Smith	v. Dr. Labone,	do.	0	3	0
Dr. Omond	v. M'Targot,	do.	2	0	1
Dr. Cappie	v. Alan Murray,	do.	0	3	0
Claude Macfie	v. W. Mitchell,	do.	3	0	0
John Macfie	v. W. F. Murray	do.	0	2	1
Wm. Lowson jun.	v. Fairlie,	do.	0	3	0
Captain Christie	v. A. K. Murray	do.	1	1	0
,, Johnston	v. A. Berwick,	do.	1	1	1
,, Bostock	v. Birch,	do.	1	2	0
,, Bertram	v. Dr. Dougan,	do.	1	1	1
,, Strathern	v. Crawford,	do.	3	0	0
Geo. Gibson	v. Keir,	do.	2	1	0
Dr. Fraser, as forfeit, accepts of			1	0	0
Total Score of Edinburgh Club ...			19	21	8

Dundee Club.			Games. Won.	Lost.	Drawn.
C. R. Baxter	v. Sheriff Spens,	Hamilton,	3	0	0
C. M. Baxter	v. Macfayden,	Glasgow,	1	2	0
P. Scott	v. Robertson,	do.	2	1	0
J. D. Baxter	v. Steedman,	do.	3	0	0
David Sime	v. Scott,	do.	2	0	1
David Lindsay	v. A. Ross,	do.	1	0	0
W. G. Thomson	v. Col. Gardiner,	do.	2	1	0
G. A. Patullo	v. Tennant,	do.	2	0	1
P. Sandeman	v. M'Whirter,	do.	3	0	0
W. N. Walker	v. Tait, Ayr ...	...	1	0	0
G. B. Fraser, as forfeit, accepts of ...		...	1	0	0
Total score of Dundee Club...		...	21	4	2
Fife Club.					
Arthur Russell	v. D. Dunlop,	Glasgow,	2	0	1
J. F. Bremner	v. Stenhouse,	do.	0	3	0
Total score of Fife Club ...		...	2	3	1
Total		...	42	28	11

FOSSIL CHESS.

Promises, like pie crusts, are made to be broken.* Although this is the motto of many journals and of some people, it is not ours. We stated in our last number the unsatisfactory character of the supposed derivation of our "rook" from "rohk," the Sanscrit and Persian for camel, as this derivation in no way explains the fact of that piece being almost universally called a castle, without further preface, we make the following extract:—

"As over wide Orissa's mountain land
Eastward towards Pursotem, which sunny sits
By Bengal's Bay, and lends its guiding aid
To wearied mariners, in countless crowds
The bigot pilgrims flock, their tombless bones
Marking for miles around their fatal path,
And gather, way-worn, round the lofty walls,
Which, wide encircling, guard the dread abode,
Where Jagatnatha, Vishnu God incarne,
Gore-tainted, black, with yellow Balaram,

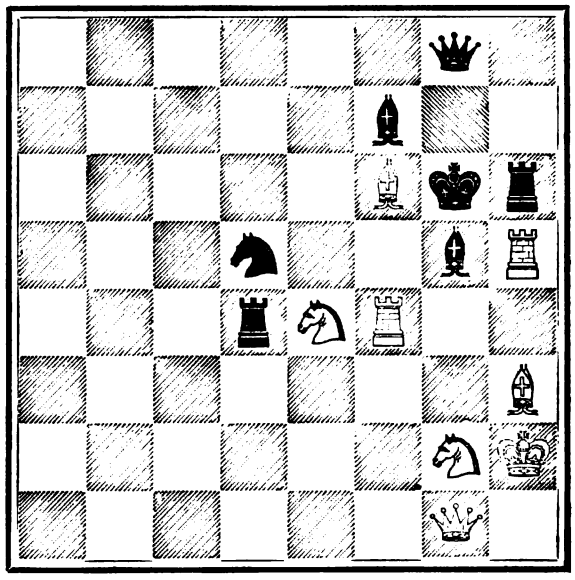
"And pale Shubudra, hideous painted, dwells.
With priestly pomp when on the *rutkh* entowered,
Which thousands drag o'er many prostrate fall'n,
He rides o'er those to envied death devote,
The victims' cry of mortal pain and praise,
Extending far without the walls, is heard,
And answered by the millions in their zeal,
Who rend the sultry air with frantic shouts
In adoration of their demon-God.
So flocked, &c., &c."

It is to this word *rutkh* that we wish to call the attention of the reader. But before proceeding with this

* We do not claim any merit of originality for this observation.

matter any further, it is our painful duty to have to mention a truly deplorable circumstance; it would ill become a journal of this description, devoted to games, to dilate longer than is absolutely necessary upon an event which is really soul-harrowing, brief then, we refer to the lamented death of Sardanapalus and the cremation of all his household. The problem annexed faithfully epitaphs that lamentable and warm event, its solution involves the sacrifice of all his goods, excepting only the two priests, who, we suppose, were clever enough to keep out of the way.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White selfmates in five moves.

Having dried our tears, let us come back to our muttons. Unlike our esteemed contemporary, the *Daily Dustbin*, whose special correspondents are sent forth to grant interviews to emperors and princes, ministers and marshals, but whose glowing and reliable letters date, in truth, from "Hard-up Court," at the end of "Pen-and-ink Lane," we have sent no special correspondent to Pursotem to give us an account of the *rutkh*, but what we have been able to learn we give our readers. The *rutkh*, or car of Juggernaut, one of the oldest pieces of furniture in India, is a huge moving tower of wood upon wheels; on its summit is placed the divine log, when it is taken out for a drive, to convert sundry human beings into greese spots; it resembles nothing so much as a birdcage, constructed to confine that beautiful bird, the rock, of which a graphic account is given in the *Arabian Nights*. By the transposition of the letters of the root, so frequent in forming derivatives, we arrive at the Greek "tursis" and the Latin "turris," and finally to our word "tower." In the preterit "struxi" of the Latin "struere," to build, the original root is more nearly retained, and in our word "structure" evidence of this is still visible.

We are aware that there is some uncertainty in all this, but then our readers know that nothing is certain in this world; still we do not like to sit quietly down, with our hands in our pockets, agreeing with the rest of the world to say, with Polonius:

"By the mass, and 'tis like a camel indeed;"

but rather to see if we cannot show that "rook" comes from "rutkh," a castle, and not from "rohk," a camel, which latter stately and picturesque brute, as those of our readers who have been to the Zoological Gardens have doubtless remarked, resembles a castle in exactly the same degree as a lobster resembles a linnet.

One word concerning his majesty of the Chess board. The objection has been raised by some that the original name of the king in Persian could not have been "schah," as there were no schahs in Persia until after the expulsion of the Armenian dynasty, by Ismael Sophi, in the sixteenth century, who was the first monarch of Persia that assumed the title of "schah." This is brilliant, but not sound. The word existed, as our word "monarch" exists, and signified generally a king, although the title was not officially assumed. We have many similar instances in the *History of England* of words being older than the institutions which they afterwards come to represent. Take, for example, the word "Bobby," the institution dates only from the time of Sir Robert Peel—the word is as old as the language itself.

Opinions have been much divided among the learned as to whether the King and Queen of the Chess board form a good example of conjugal felicity. As to all other matters connected with Chess, we have devoted much care to this question; we have, as yet, not been able to come to a satisfactory decision on the subject; but when we do, we will communicate with our readers. It has, however, been argued by some eminent jurists that the queen would have good ground of complaint in an action, from the fact of the king's receiving all the *checks* himself and never by any chance giving the queen a single shilling. Let us, however, hope that they will continue in amity. In the original game, as first introduced into Europe, there was no queen but a vizier. This piece, in Latin "fiercia," in Persian "ferz" or "firzin," and in Arabic "fierche," "fiercir," "fierce" and "fierze" was in time corrupted by the French into "vierge" or virgin, and so became the queen. The power of the virgin was limited to one move at a time, like our king at present. In Persia the power of the piece has been increased, and is the same now as that of our queen, the game being played in all respects as we play it, with the exception of the king being always placed to the right of the queen at starting, and the pawns never moving more than one square at a time.

Some person or persons unknown, but of strikingly original intellects, learning the objection raised against the history of the king, commented upon a paragraph or so back, have objected that the original name for the queen could not have been vizier, as that office was only instituted in 1370. The office instituted at that

date was that of "vizier azem," or "grand vizier." The viziers of the bench, of whom there are now six, bringing up the number to a round half baker's dozen, are a much older institution; in fact, the *Arabian Nights*, our standard authority on all matters connected with government, mention Giafar as being vizier to Haroun al Raschid, and that in the time of Alfred the Great.

We shall conclude this article with the mate, that being the most interesting part of the game except when it is passive. The word comes from the Persian "mat," dead, "check mate" signifying king dead. To those of our readers who have made a study of philology, we leave the question of whether there may be any connection between this word and a word of our own spelt with the same three letters. Perhaps, however, it is allied to "mad." We shall give some account of China and the Chinese in our next.

BLINDFOLD CHESS.

MR. BLACKBURNE, whose masterly skill as a Chess player has been proved in many well-fought matches and tournaments, has lately been exhibiting his truly marvellous powers in Blindfold Chess at several Metropolitan and Provincial Chess Clubs. He has on several previous occasions conducted ten games concurrently without sight of the board, and on the 2nd ult. he again contested ten games simultaneously against as many picked players of the City of London Chess Club. This extraordinary intellectual feat he performed with the greatest ease, conversing at intervals with all who chose to address him, and never throughout the seven or eight hours play announcing a single false or impossible move.

We have in these days of electricity and steam become so familiarised with wonders that the phenomena which amazed our grandfathers seem the veriest common place, and performances of this kind which would have furnished "Slaughter's" or "Garraway's" with topics of conversation for a twelvemonth, are now, if they provoke any comment whatever, disposed of in an obscure paragraph of a morning paper. There could not, perhaps, be found a better illustration of that feeling, whose maternity is popularly ascribed to familiarity than Blindfold Chess. There were no newspapers in the year 1266 to record the excitement among the Florentines when the Saracen monk conducted two games without sight of the board, nevertheless the incident must have been sensational, for it was considered sufficiently important to be noticed in an early History of Florence and the passage referring to it is quoted by Twiss (vol. 1, p 19).

We can imagine, too, the amazement in the court of Philip the Second of Spain when Ruy Lopez performed the feat of playing a single blindfold game; and we can easily believe that his reward was substantial and commensurate with the astonishment of the gloomy monarch, his master. But to come nearer our own times, let us see what was thought of a Blindfold Chess *séance* less than ninety years ago. The *World*, a London newspaper, in its issue of the 28th May 1783, makes the following remarks upon "Mr. Philidor's" performance of playing two games simultaneously without sight of the Board. The italics are not ours:—

"This brief article is the record of more than sport and fashion, it is a *phenomenon* in the *history of man!* and so should be hoarded among the best samples of human memory—till memory shall be no more. The ability of fixing on the mind the entire plan of two chess tables without seeing either, with the multiplied vicissitudes of two and thirty pieces in possible employment upon each table, is a wonder of such magnitude as could not be credited, perhaps would not be credible, without repeated experience of the fact."

This is pretty well for "high," but Philidor himself was so convinced that his feat of playing three games simultaneously would never be paralleled that he prefaced his Blindfold games with the following address:—

"Mr. Philidor being of opinion that an entire collection of the games he has played without looking over the Chess board, would not be of any service to amateurs, he will only publish a few *parties* which he has played against three players at once, subjoining the names of his respectable adversaries, in order to prove and transmit to posterity a *fact* of which future ages might otherwise entertain some doubt."

We are inclined to think that the posterity for which Philidor evinced so much consideration will bestow very little upon his performance, although it will yield ready credence to his "fact." It is not improbable, however, that the great master could have played more than three games, if he had not entertained a conviction that he had then attained to the extreme limit of the human understanding; it remained, therefore for a more adventurous age to attempt greater things. Its success is chronicled in the feats of Morphy and Paulssen, and of our own countryman, Blackburne, whose latest exhibition of that "faculty of the soul, we term memory," we are about to record.

The match was played at the City of London, now one of the largest, and certainly in a combative sense, the most flourishing of English Chess Clubs.

The members meet only twice a week; but they meet for Chess, and nothing else, and there is consequently a visible earnestness of purpose which is much more likely to produce fine players than the *laissez faire* school of the West. "Skittling" is unknown in the City of London Club. The members are deterred from so enervating a luxury by the presence of a dreadful Book of Fate, in which is recorded the result of every game contested at the Club, and the names of the players. From this volume a Being of Doom, gifted with supernatural arithmetical powers, prepares a yearly summary of games won, lost, and drawn, which is submitted to the members, to the great glory of the Victors and—well it is clearly impossible to express the

feelings of the Victims. They get used to it, no doubt; and, like the spring medicine for the children, it is good for them, although they may like it not. At all events, it tends to prevent carelessness in play, and unquestionably defines who are the steady and who the unsteady players. From the former class ten gentlemen were selected to do battle on this occasion, but as their deeds speak for them we will, without further comment, refer the reader to the games, at pages 23 and 24.

REVIEW.

KEY TO THE CHESS OPENINGS.* (*First Notice.*)

THE accession of an experienced player like Mr. Long to the list of British Chess writers must be regarded with interest by all students of Chess theory. His work is, to be sure, as it professes to be, but a key to the labours of those who have preceded him, but from the novelty of its design and arrangement it deserves to rank as an original contribution to the literature of the game. The arrangement of the matter contained in the *Key* cannot be better described than by quoting the author's profession of his intention :—" To supply a picture-book, so to speak, of the Openings which are most likely to be met with in actual play, showing *to the eye* the principal ways in which the game is developed on either side at the commencement, by printing them on diagrams, large and clear, and by marking the *last* move—the one under consideration—by the novel method of a *half-turned type*, the invention of the author."

In this way Mr. Long presents us with a panorama of the Chess Openings, exhibiting in a concise form the variations in each suggested by or appearing in the published games of the best players and analysts down to the present year.

The work is consequently one which will be hailed with extreme satisfaction, not only by the beginner, from the facility with which the *principles* of each Opening may be acquired—(an excellent introduction clears the ground for this)—but by the advanced player, whose memory of the best lines of attack and defence may have become rusty from disuse. All good players, under such circumstances, feel the utmost aversion to going " back to the books;" they have travelled over that ground before, and it must be admitted that the enthusiasm which vanishes with youth is absolutely necessary for the sustained study of those interminable variations in small type which are common to most works on the Chess Openings. Let one of these, however, take up Mr. Long's *Key*, and he will find just what he wants, that is to say, the latest variations, unencumbered by matter which, however necessary to the theorist, he knows he can in practise do very well without. We heartily welcome the *Key to the Chess Openings*, for we believe that the study of Chess theory has entered upon a period of revival which is already bearing abundant fruit both on the Continent and in our own country, and to this revival Mr. Long's book is an important contribution.

PAPERS RECEIVED.

The Index 25th March, 1st, 8th, 15th, 29th April, and 6th and 13th May; *New Berlin Schachzeitung; Dubuque Chess Journal* May; *The Blue* May 1871; *The Spot Stroke*, by Joseph Bennett, "ex-champion," edited by Cavendish (De la Rue and Co.); *Key to the Chess Openings*, Long (Longman and Co.); *Land and Water* weekly; *Courier; Australasian* 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March. The Rules for the Game of Croquet, as played at Sheriff Hutton Park, by Leonard Thompson, Esq. (Cordeaux and Ernest, York.)

Subscriptions for Vol. IV. are now due, and should be sent in postage-stamps to the Proprietor of the Westminster Papers, Caledonian Hotel, Robert Street, Adelphi; or by Post Office Order to W. W. Morgan, 232 Caledonian Road, N.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEMS IN THE APRIL NUMBER.

No. L.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 Q to R 8	1 Aught
2 Mates	

No. LI.

1 Q to Q Kt 2 and mates next move

No. LII.

1 B to K R 2	Black's moves are all forced
2 B to Kt sq	
3 B to K 3	
4 P to Q B 4 mate	

No. LIII.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 R to K 6	1 P takes B
2 R to Q 6 ch	2 K moves
3 B mates	

NOTE.—The Black Bishop in this diagram should be White.

No. LIV.

1 P to Kt 4 ch	1 K takes R
2 B to K B 4	2 Aught
3 Mates accordingly	

No. LV.

1 B to Q 3 ch	1 K takes B
2 Q to B 4 ch	2 Aught
3 Kt or Q mates accordingly	

No. LVI.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 B to B 6	1 K moves
2 Q to K sq ch	2 K moves
3 Q mates or Kt moves discovering check and mate	

No. LVII.

1 P to K B 3	1 P to Kt 6
2 B to K Kt 2	2 Aught
3 Mates.	

No. LVIII.

1 Q to K Kt 7	1 R takes Q (best)
2 B to K 5.	2 Aught
3 Either Kt mates	

* Key to the Chess Openings, on a novel plan theoretically and practically considered, and illustrated by diagrams. By Thomas Long, Esq., B.A. Dublin: Edward Ponsonby, 116 Grafton-street. London: Longmans, Green and Co. 1871.

GAME IV.

QUEEN'S KNIGHT'S OPENING.

White. Mr. BLACKBURNE.	Black. Mr. FENTON.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Q Kt to B 3	2 K Kt to B 3
3 P to K B 4	3 P to Q 4
4 P to Q 3	4 Q Kt to B 3 (a)
5 K B P takes P	5 Q Kt takes P
6 P to Q 4	6 Kt to K Kt 3
7 P to K 5	7 Kt to K 5
8 Kt takes Kt	8 P takes Kt
9 K B to Q B 4	9 P to Q B 4
10 P to Q B 3	10 P takes Q P
11 P takes P	11 B to Kt 5 ch
12 B to Q 2	12 B takes B ch (b)
13 Q takes B	13 Castles
14 Kt to K 2	14 B to K 3
15 P to Q Kt 3	15 Q to Kt 3
16 Castles Q side (c)	16 K R to Q B sq
17 P to Q 5	17 Kt takes K P (d)
18 P takes B	18 Kt takes B (e)
19 P takes P ch	19 K to B sq
20 P takes Kt	20 R takes P ch
21 Kt to B 3	21 Q R to Q B sq
22 Q to Q Kt 2	22 R takes Kt ch
23 K to Kt sq	23 Q takes Q ch
24 K takes Q	24 R to Q 6
25 R takes R	25 P takes R
26 R to Q B sq (f)	26 R takes R
27 K takes R	27 K takes P
28 K to Q 2	28 K to K 3
29 K takes P	29 K to Q 4
30 P to K Kt 3	30 P to Q Kt 4
31 K to B 3	31 P to Q R 4
32 K to Q 3	32 P to Q Kt 5
33 P to K R 3	33 P to Q R 5
34 P to K Kt 4	34 P to Q R 6
35 K to K 3	35 K to Q B 5
Resigns.	

(a) This move is much inferior to either B to Q Kt 5 or P takes K P.

(b) If Q takes Q P, then follows Q to R 5 ch, &c.

(c) This looks desperate, but he dare not castle on the other side because of Kt takes K P, &c.

(d) An excellent conception.

(e) Black should rather have taken B with R, when, if White retakes, he loses his Q by Kt to Q 6 ch.

(f) White's only hope of a draw lies in exchanging pieces.

GAME V.

FRENCH GAME.

White. Mr. BLACKBURNE.	Black. Mr. ARGALL.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 3
2 P to Q 4	2 P to Q 4
3 P takes P	3 P takes P
4 B to Q 3	4 Kt to K B 3
5 Kt to K B 3	5 K B to Q 3
6 Castles	6 Castles
7 B to K 3	7 B to K 3
8 Kt to Q B 3	8 Kt to Q B 3
9 Q to Q 2	9 Q to Q 2
10 Q B to K Kt 5	10 K B to K 2
11 Q R to K sq	11 P to K R 3
12 B takes Kt	12 B takes B
13 Kt to K 5	13 Q to Q 3
14 Kt takes Kt	14 P takes Kt
15 Kt to K 2	15 P to Q B 4
16 P takes P	16 Q takes P
17 P to Q B 3	17 R to Q Kt sq
18 Kt to B 4	18 B to K Kt 5
19 Kt takes B (a)	19 P takes Kt (b)
20 Q to B 2	20 R to Q Kt 3
21 R to K 2	21 B to K B 3
22 K R to K sq	22 P to K 4 (c)
23 Q to B sq	23 B to K Kt 4
24 Q to Q sq	24 P to K 5
25 B to Kt sq	25 Q R to K B 3
26 Q to B 2	26 Q to Q 3
Drawn.	

(a) A very ingenious conception to exchange the pieces, and thus simplify the game.

(b) If B takes Q, then Kt takes Q, followed by Kt to Q 7 attacking both Rooks.

(c) B takes P seems safe enough, and would certainly have imparted some interest to the battle.

GAME VI.

FRENCH GAME.

White. Mr. BLACKBURNE.	Black. Mr. VYSE.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 3
2 P to Q 4	2 P to Q 4
3 Q Kt to B 3	3 K Kt to B 3
4 P to K 5	4 K Kt to Q 2
5 P to K B 4 (a)	5 P to Q B 4
6 K Kt to B 3	6 P to K R 3 (b)
7 B to K 2	7 Q Kt to B 3
8 Q B to K 3	8 Q to Q Kt 3
9 P takes P	9 B takes P
10 B takes B	10 Kt takes B
11 Kt to Q Kt 5	11 Kt to K 5 (c)
12 R to K B sq	12 Castles (d)
13 Kt to Q 2	13 Kt takes Kt
14 Q takes Kt	14 P to Q R 3 (e)
15 Kt to B 3	15 Q takes P
16 R to Q Kt sq	16 Q to Q R 6
17 P to K Kt 4	17 Q to K 2
18 Q to K 3 (f)	18 P to Q 5
19 Q to Kt 3	19 P takes Kt
20 P to K R 4	20 P to K B 3 (g)
21 P takes P	21 R takes P
22 P to Kt 5	22 P takes P
23 R P takes P	23 R to B 4
24 B to Q 3	24 Kt to Q 5
25 R to K R sq	25 K to B 2
26 R to R 8	26 P to Q Kt 4
27 P to Kt 6 ch	27 K to B 3
28 Q to R 4 ch (h)	Resigns

(a) This and the preceding move are not good, neither in the present nor in any other form of the French or the Sicilian games. Driving the Black King's Knight to Q 2 is not disadvantageous to the second player, for the piece can render effective service on that square. (See the games in the match between Messrs. Morphy and Andersen, in which the latter gentleman commences with 1 P to Q R 3.)

(b) Weak play; 6 B to K 2, followed by Castles, P to K Kt 3 and P to K B 4 give Black a fine game.

(c) The second player has now an evident superiority.

(d) Black might have advanced P to Q R 3 in security.

(e) This is now very disadvantageous to Black, because the Queen is forced completely out of the game, and the White pieces come into formidable cooperation.

(f) Instead of this White ought to have placed his King on B 2, and, if the Queen checked, have then carried it to Knight's square.

(g) The Pawn ought to advance two squares. The shorter march affords White an admirable opportunity of retrieving the loss of his piece by setting up a powerful attack.

(h) The finish is vigorous, and atones for the conduct of the game in its earlier stages.

GAME VII.

FRENCH GAME.

White. Mr. BLACKBURNE.	Black. Mr. SUTTON.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 3
2 P to Q 4	2 P to Q 4
3 Q Kt to B 3	3 P to K Kt 3
4 B to Q 3	4 B to K Kt 2
5 K Kt to K 2	5 K Kt to K 2
6 Castles	6 Castles
7 Q B to K 3	7 P to K 4
8 P takes K P	8 B takes P
9 P to K B 4	9 B takes Q Kt
10 P takes B	10 P to Q B 3
11 P to K 5	11 B to K B 4
12 B to Q B 5	12 Q Kt to Q 2
13 B takes Kt	13 Q takes B
14 B takes B	14 P takes B
15 Kt to Q 4	15 P to K B 3
16 Kt takes K B P	16 Q to Q B 4 ch
17 K to R sq	17 Kt takes K P (a)
18 P takes Kt	18 P takes P
19 Q to Kt 4 ch	19 K to B 2
20 Kt to Q 6 double ch	Resigned (b)

(a) He must postpone the fatal check at Kt 4 as long as he can.

(b) Because if K takes R, when White wins either both R's or the Queen, or mates in a few moves.

GAME VIII.

EVANS' GAMBIT.

White. Mr. BLACKBURNE.	Black. Mr. COUSIN.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 K Kt to B 3	2 Q Kt to B 3
3 B to B 4	3 K B to B 4
4 P to Q Kt 4	4 B takes P
5 P to Q B 3	5 K B to Q R 4
6 P to Q 4	6 P takes P
7 Castles	7 K Kt to B 3
8 B to R 3	8 P to Q 3
9 P to K 5 (a)	9 P to Q 4 (b)
10 B to Kt 5 (c)	10 Kt to K 5
11 Q to R 4	11 B takes P
12 B takes Kt ch	12 P takes B
13 Q takes B P ch (d)	13 B to Q 2
14 Q takes Q P	14 P to Q B 3
15 Q takes Kt	15 B takes R
16 Q Kt to Q 2	16 B to Kt 7
17 B takes B	17 Castles
18 Kt takes P	18 P to Q B 4
19 K Kt to Q Kt 3	19 Q R to Q B sq
20 Kt to Q B 4	20 Q to K Kt 4
21 P to K B 4	21 Q to K Kt 5
22 P to K R 3	22 Q to K 3 (e)
23 P to B 5	23 Q to Q B 3
24 Q to K Kt 4	24 P to K Kt 3
25 Kt to Q 6	25 R to Q Kt sq
26 Q to Kt 5	Resigns

(a) This and the previous move are the proper course.

(b) Black's play here is disastrous, but P takes P could have led to no better result. In the latter case, Black is permanently deprived of the power of Castling; and the first player, by Q to Q Kt 3 and R to K square, or P takes P, secures a terrible attack.

(c) P takes Kt is perhaps better, though the move in the text is effective enough.

(d) Q Kt takes B first would have terminated the game sooner.

(e) These moves with the Queen are admirably calculated to assist the adversary in maturing his aggressive projects.

GAME IX.

FRENCH GAME.

Black. Mr. BLACKBURNE.	White. Mr. YOUNGER.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 3
2 P to Q 4	2 P to Q 4
3 P takes P	3 P takes P
4 B to Q 3	4 P to Q B 4 (a)
5 P takes P	5 B takes P
6 Kt to K B 3	6 Kt to K B 3
7 Castles	7 Castles
8 Kt to Q B 3	8 Kt to Q B 3
9 B to K Kt 5	9 B to K 3
10 Q to Q 2	10 B to K 2
11 Q R to Q sq	11 Kt to K Kt 5
12 K R to K sq	12 K Kt to K 4
13 Kt takes Kt	13 B takes B
14 Kt takes Kt	14 P takes Kt (b)
15 P to K B 4	15 B to K B 3
16 K to R sq	16 Q to Q 2
17 Kt to K 2 (c)	17 B takes P
18 P to B 3	18 Q R to Q Kt sq
19 Kt to Q 4	19 P to Q B 4
20 Kt takes B	20 P takes Kt
21 B to Q B 4 (d)	21 Q to K B 2
22 B to Kt 3	22 B to Q R 6
23 B to B 2	23 R to Q Kt 7
24 R to Q Kt sq	24 R takes R
25 B takes R	25 Q takes K B P
26 Q takes Q	26 R takes Q
27 P to K Kt 3	27 R to K B 3
28 K to Kt 2	28 P to Q B 5
29 R to K 2	29 P to K R 3
30 B to B 2	30 K to K B 2
31 B to Q sq	31 K to K 2
Can't wait.	

(a) The advance of the Q B P is given in the older treatises as the best; experience however shows that the Queen's Pawn is thereby left in isolation and exposed to the assault of almost all the adverse pieces.

(b) The second player would not have lost anything by taking the Queen with Bishop.

(c) This error is the first of a series, which result in leaving the first player with a hopeless inferiority. The Knight might have been advanced to Q R 4, and afterwards established at Q B 5, by means of P to Q Kt 4, for the adverse Bishop could not be played to K 2 on account of P to K B 5, 17 P to K R 3 is also good play.

(d) Merely a loss of time.

GAME X.

KING'S GAMBIT DECLINED.

White. Mr. BLACKBURNE.	Black. Mr. KEATS.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to K B 4	2 P to Q 4
3 K Kt to B 3	3 Q Kt to B 3
4 K B to Kt 5	4 B to K Kt 5
5 Q to K 2	5 P to K B 4
6 P to Q 3	6 B to B 4
7 P takes B P	7 B takes Kt
8 Q takes B	8 Q to Q 3
9 Kt to Q B 3	9 Castles
10 B takes Kt	10 P takes B
11 B to Q 2	11 P takes P
12 Castles	12 B to K 6
13 B takes B	13 P takes B
14 Q takes K P (a)	14 P to Q 5
15 Q to R 3	15 P takes Kt
16 P to B 6 ch	16 K to Kt sq
17 P takes K Kt P	17 Q to B 5 ch
18 K to Kt sq (b)	18 Q to Q Kt 5
Resigns.	

(a) An excusable slip under the circumstances.

(b) Interposing the Rook would not have been so immediately disastrous, and might even have given White some chance of a draw.

GAME XI.

IRREGULAR OPENING.

White. Mr. BLACKBURNE.	Black. Mr. MANNING.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 K Kt to B 3	2 Kt to Q B 3
3 B to B 4	3 Q to K B 3 (a)
4 Castles	4 P to Q 3
5 Q Kt to B 3	5 Q B to K 3
6 Kt to Q 5	6 B takes Kt
7 P takes B	7 Kt to Q R 4
8 P to Q 3	8 P to K R 3
9 B to Q 2	9 Kt takes B
10 P takes Kt	10 Q to Q sq
11 R to K sq	11 B to K 2
12 B to B 3	12 Kt to B 3
13 P to K R 3	13 Castles
14 Kt to R 2	14 Q to Q 3
15 Kt to Kt 4	15 Q to K B 4
16 Kt takes Kt ch	16 B takes Kt
17 Q to Q 3	17 Q to K Kt 3
18 Q takes Q	18 P takes Q
19 R to K 2	19 P to K Kt 4
20 P to Q Kt 4	20 Q R to Q sq
21 P to Q R 4	21 P to K 5
White wins.	

(a) Black's opening may be associated with those appearing in the French works, under the denomination of *Défenses faibles*.

GAME XII.

CENTRE GAMBIT.

White. Mr. BLACKBURNE.	Black. Mr. BEARDSALL.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to Q 4	2 P takes P
3 P to Q B 3	3 P to Q 3
4 P takes P	4 K Kt to B 3
5 Q Kt to B 3	5 K B to K 2
6 B to Q 3	6 Q B to K 3
7 P to K B 4	7 P to Q 4
8 P to K 3	8 B to K Kt 5
9 Kt to K B 3	9 K Kt to Q 2
10 Castles	10 P to Q B 4
11 Kt takes P	11 Kt takes P
12 Q P takes Kt	12 Castles
13 P to K R 3	13 Q takes Kt
14 B takes R P ch	Resigns

The following games were played simultaneously by Mr. Blackburne, without sight of the board, during a recent visit to the Cardiff Club.

GAME XIII.

PETROFF'S DEFENCE.

White. Mr. J. H. BLACKBURNE.	Black. Mr. THOROLD.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 K Kt to B 3	2 K Kt to B 3
3 B to B 4	3 P to Q 4
4 P takes P	4 B to Q 3
5 P to Q 3	5 P to K R 3
6 Q Kt to B 3	6 B to K B 4
7 Q to K 2	7 Castles
8 Castles	8 Q Kt to Q 2
9 B to Q 2	9 R to K sq (a)
10 Q R to K sq	10 P to K 5
11 P takes P	11 Kt takes P
12 Kt takes Kt	12 R takes Kt
13 B to K 3 (b)	13 Q to B 3
14 B to Q 3	14 Q R to K sq (c)
15 B takes R	15 R takes B
16 Q to Q 2	16 R to K Kt 5 (d)
17 P to K Kt 3	17 B to K 5
18 Kt to Q 4	18 Kt to K 4
19 P to K B 4 (e)	19 Kt to Q B 5
20 Q to K 2	20 Q to Kt 3 (f)
21 B to B 2 (g)	21 B takes Q P
22 P to Q Kt 3	22 B takes B P (h)
23 P takes Kt	23 B takes K Kt P
24 Q B P takes B (i)	24 B takes P dble. ch
25 K to R sq	25 B to B 5 (k)
26 Q to K 8 ch	26 K to R 2
27 Q to K 4	Resigns

(a) The commencement of a very spirited attack.

(b) The best move—covering the Q and defending the K B.

(c) To retreat the R would be to relinquish the attack, which Black seems resolved to maintain at all risks.

(d) Threatening R takes P ch, when, if K takes R, Black wins easily by B to R 6 ch, and Q takes Kt ch, &c.

(e) The ability of this defence against the attack, which Black pursues so fiercely, is indeed surprising when we consider that White was contesting five other games at the same time.

(f) Well played. If White captures the Kt, he will be speedily check-mated.

(g) Defending the pawn and placing another piece *en prise*.

(h) He has advanced too far for retreat now, and must push on at any price.

(i) If Black had taken the other Bishop, mate would have followed in a few moves.

(k) B to Q 3 would have been stronger, but Black apparently overlooked the check of the Queen and the consequent exchanges.

GAME XIV.

CENTRE GAMBIT.

White. Mr. J. H. BLACKBURNE.	Black. Mr. SOLOMONS.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to Q 4	2 P to Q 4
3 Q P takes P	3 P takes P
4 Q takes Q ch	4 K takes Q
5 Q Kt to B 3	5 B to Q Kt 5
6 B to K Kt 5 ch	6 P to B 3
7 Castles ch	7 B to Q 2
8 P takes P	8 P takes P
9 B to Q 2 (a)	9 B takes Kt
10 B takes B	10 K to K 2
11 P to B 3	11 K Kt to R 3
12 P to K Kt 4 (b)	12 R to Kt sq
13 B to Q B 4	13 B to K 3
14 B takes B	14 K takes B
15 R to K sq	15 Kt takes P (c)
16 P takes Kt	16 R takes P
17 Kt to R 3	17 P to K B 4
18 K R to Kt sq	18 P to K R 4
19 Kt to Kt 5 ch	19 K to K 2
20 R takes R	20 R P takes R
21 Kt takes P (d)	21 P takes Kt
22 R takes P ch	22 K to B 2
23 R to K B 4 ch	

And after a few more moves Black resigned.

(a) Preparatory to Kt takes P and avoiding the doubled Pawn should Black capture the Kt.

(b) All this is very well conceived. The Knight would have been well posted at B 4.

(c) An oversight obviously.

(d) Effectually breaking up the array of Pawns.

GAME XV.

ALLGAIER GAMBIT.

White. Mr. J. H. BLACKBURNE.	Black. Mr. FISHER.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to K B 4	2 P takes P
3 K Kt to B 3	3 P to K Kt 4
4 P to K R 4	4 P to Kt 5
5 Kt to Kt 5	5 P to K R 3
6 Kt takes K B P	6 K takes Kt
7 B to B 4 ch	7 P to Q 4
8 B takes P ch	8 K to K sq (a)
9 P to Q 4	9 B to Q 3
10 Q Kt to B 3	10 Kt to K 2
11 B to Q B 4	11 Q Kt to B 3
12 Castles	12 R to B sq (b)
13 P to K 5	13 Kt takes K P
14 P takes Kt	14 B to Q B 4 ch
15 K to R 2	15 Q takes Q
16 Kt takes Q	16 Kt to Kt 3
17 B to Q 3	17 P to Kt 6 ch
18 K to R sq	18 B to K B 4
19 Kt to Q B 3	19 B takes B

GAME XV. *continued*

20 P takes B	20 P to B 6
21 R takes P	21 R takes R
22 P takes R	22 Kt takes R P (c)
23 Kt to K 2	23 B to B 7
24 B to B 4	24 Kt to B 4
25 K to Kt 2	25 Kt to R 5 ch
26 K to R 3	26 Kt takes P
27 B takes Kt P (d)	27 B takes B
28 Kt takes B	28 Kt takes P
29 R to K sq	29 K to B 2
30 R takes Kt	30 R to Q sq
31 R to K 3	31 R to Q 4
32 K to Kt 4	32 R to Q R 4
33 P to R 3	33 R to Q Kt 4
34 R to K 2	34 R to Q 4
35 R to Q 2	35 P to B 3

And owing to the lateness of the hour the game was given up as drawn.

(a) K to Kt 2 would only have led to a well-known drawn position.

(b) Overlooking the peril of the Bishop.

(c) Threatening to Queen the P in two moves.

(d) The natural move would have been to retain the Bishop, so we are driven to the conclusion that there was a trap laid here for the Kt, the bait being the King's Pawn.

GAME XVI.

KING'S KNIGHT GAMBIT.

White. Mr. J. H. BLACKBURNE.	Black. Mr. N. FEDDEN.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to K B 4	2 P takes P (a)
3 K Kt to B 3	3 P to K Kt 4
4 B to B 4	4 B to Kt 2
5 P to Q 4	5 P to Q 3
6 P to Q B 3	6 Q Kt to B 3
7 Castles	7 P to K R 3
8 Q Kt to R 3	8 K Kt to K 2
9 P to K Kt 3	9 P to Kt 5
10 Kt to R 4	10 P to B 6
11 P to K R 3	11 Kt to Kt 3
12 Kt to K B 5 (b)	12 B takes Kt
13 P takes B	13 K Kt to K 2
14 P takes P	14 P to Q 4
15 B to Q Kt 5	15 P to K R 4
16 P to B 6	16 B takes P
17 P to Kt 5	17 R to K Kt sq
18 Q takes P (c)	18 B takes Kt P
19 Q takes B P ch	19 K to Q 2
20 R to K sq	20 B to R 5
21 Q to K 6 ch	21 K to K sq
22 Q takes R ch	Resigns

(a) Not the least merit of these games is the spirit displayed by the country players in accepting the gambits.

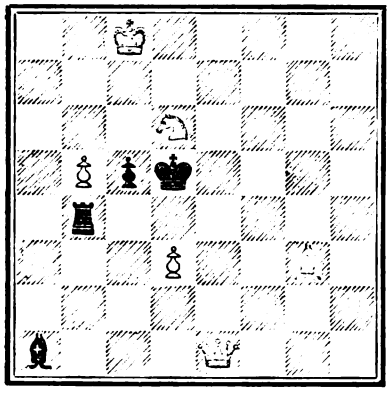
(b) Winning a P at least.

(c) Much stronger than taking the B, which would have given Black the attack.

PROBLEMS.

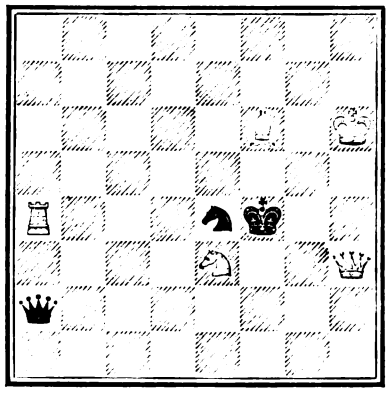
For the benefit of young players we continue our series of simple problems. 5, 6 and 7, by R. B. Wormald; 8, 9 and 10, by R. Ormond; 11, 12 and 13, by P. T. Duffy.

No. V.—BLACK.



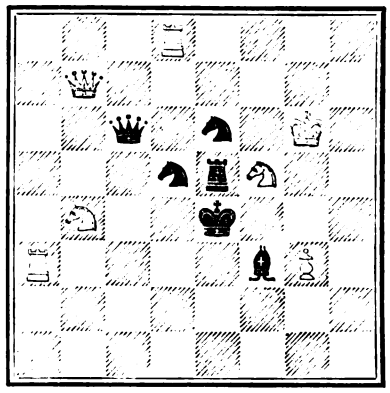
WHITE.
White to play and mate in two moves.

No. VI.—BLACK.



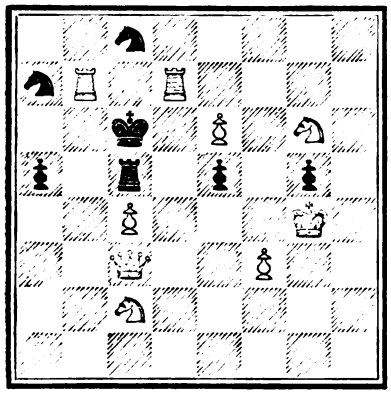
WHITE.
White to play and mate in two moves.

No. VII.—BLACK.



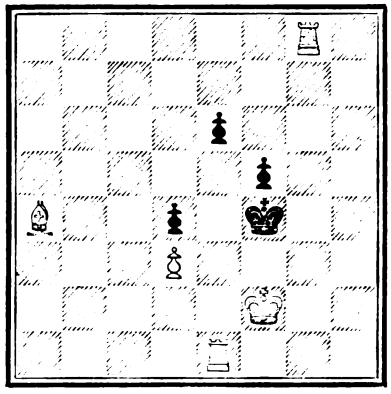
WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. VIII.—BLACK.



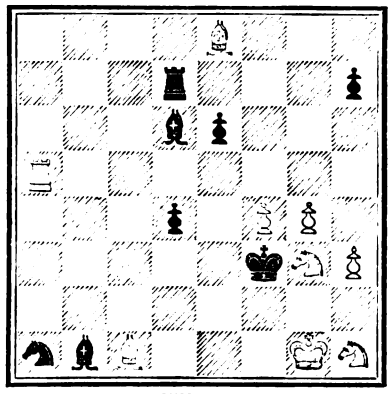
WHITE.
White to play and mate in two moves.

No. IX.—BLACK.



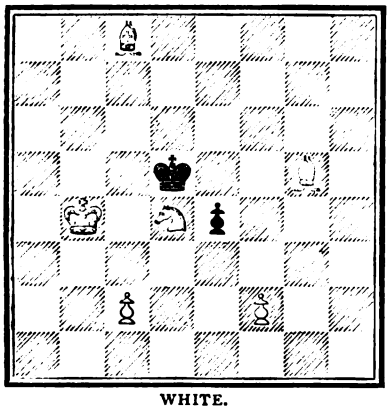
WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. X.—BLACK.



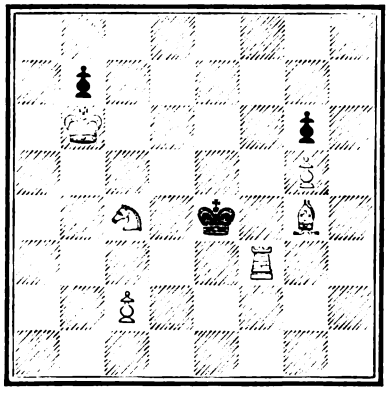
WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. XI.—BLACK.



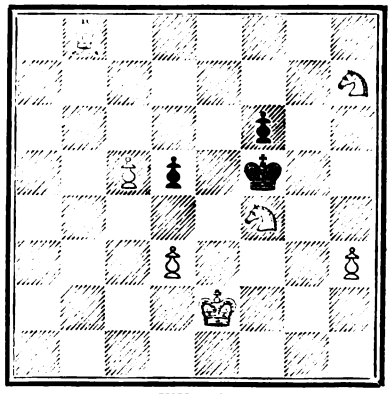
WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. XII.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. XIII.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

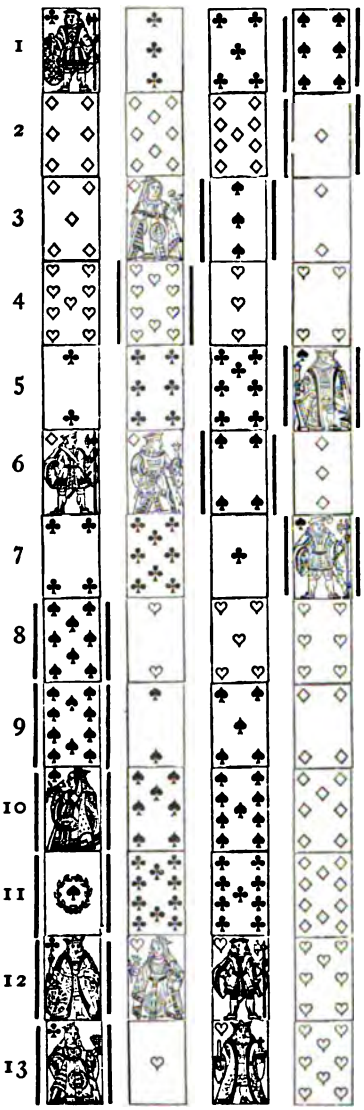
WHIST.

A. and B. play against X. and Z. A. leads. The card with the double rim wins, and the card below the rimmed card is the next one led.

HAND No. 94.

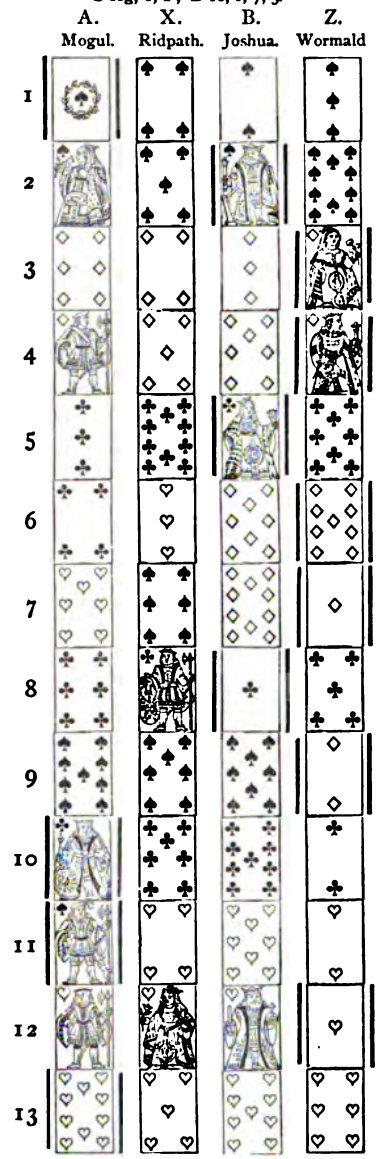
Played at the Imperial Club, Cheltenham, 9th May.

Score—A and B 2. X and Z love.
Z turns up S K.



HAND No. 95.

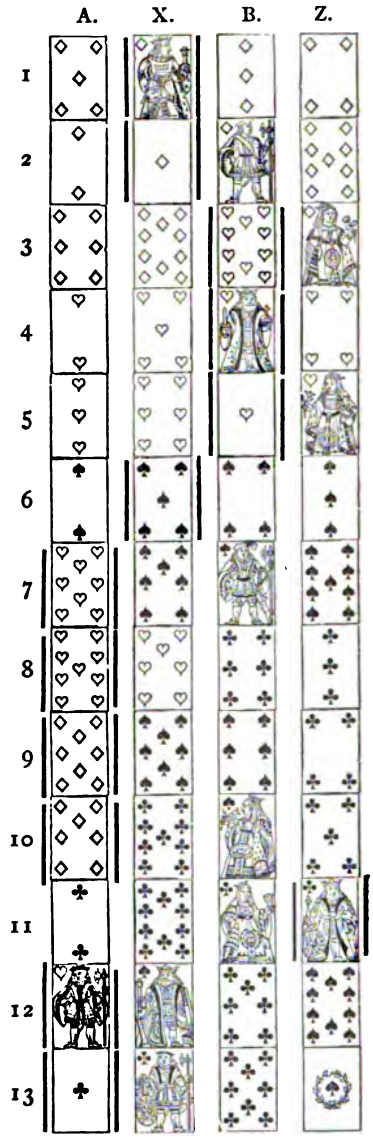
Played at the Westminster Chess Club, 12th May.
Score—A and B 4. X and Z love.
B's HAND.—C A, Qn, 9; H Kg, 9, 8; S Kg, 8, 2; D 10, 8, 7, 3.



HAND No. 96.

Score love. Z turns up H Q.

A's HAND (Cam.)—D 8, 7, 6, 5, 2; S 2; C A, 2; H Kv, 9, 8, 3, 2.



HAND No. 94.

NOTES.—We give this game as a specimen of Cheltenham Whist. In former days we were taught to believe that Whist at Cheltenham and Bath was of the first water, and the only doubt as to this teaching was that we were told the old ladies were the best players. There were no chroniclers of Whist hands in those days. 1. A desires to clear his suit before leading trump. B does not sympathise with this view. 2. Exceptionally correct. 3. A completes his Blue Peter. 4. B considers it unfair, and acts accordingly. 5. X being very weak in trumps forces his partner. 6. Z having the Kg turned up, thinks it best to deceive his adversary, and therefore plays the Kg. He then proceeds to force the weak hand in the hopes of making his Kv. 7. B thinks it is high time to clear his partner's suit. Z makes his Kv whilst he is able. 8. Tired of Diamonds Z tries his luck at Hearts. A, disgusted, trumps and makes every trick.

HAND No. 95.

NOTES.—1. A, being weak in trumps, chooses his strongest long suit in place of his longest. 2. B takes his partner's Q so as not to stop the suit. 6. B ought to know the Diamond 2, and probably the major tenace in trumps in addition, are in Z's hand, otherwise he would not have returned the Kg.

HAND No. 96.

NOTES.—This hand was given to us by Cam, as a specimen of the advantage of his rule of leading from the lowest but one of his suit when he has no honour. 1. This is the point in the hand. We do not find fault with the lead of the Diamond in this position. Cam has but one Spade, and an honor is turned up to the right. 2. This is exceedingly kind on the part of X. We see no reason why he should not open his own suit in preference to clearing his adversary's. 3. B, understanding from Cam's play that he has not the Diamond Q, trumps where otherwise he would not have done so.

JOTTINGS.—CRITICISM.

At the end of every hand it will be found that every player has done something that he ought not to have done, or omitted to do something that he ought to have done. A perfectly-played hand is seldom seen, and if players are to become masters in their art, and they do not find out the mistakes they make, it seems to us a kind action to point out why they ought to have played differently. If at cricket a player missed an easy catch, owing to inattention, he would certainly receive unpalatable criticism. The captain might even swear without giving any serious offence, or committing an unpardonable social crime. Few players object to going over a game of Chess and discussing a variation that would have altered the complexion of the game; and at Billiards who objects to be told an easy way of making a cannon? At Whist the matter is quite different. If, in the mildest tones you can command, you point out to your partner that, by playing a different card, he might have saved or won a game, the player thus addressed considers himself not only aggrieved, but blown up. It is the bad players of whom we speak, for we never recollect a good player taking offence at judicious criticism on his play. We are quite aware that the critic may be wrong. He may judge by results, and this criticism is doubtless offensive and useless. There is criticism and criticism, but whilst we are prepared to condemn the one, we are equally prepared to defend the other. Without being subject to criticism we contend that no man will ever become a good player; and, in like manner, he will not obtain any advantage from bad criticism. The critic to be of any use must, in the first instance, be good natured. He must be simple in his style, and adapt his language and reasoning to the comprehension of his hearer. He must put himself in his hearer's position, and assume only such knowledge as the player had or ought to have had at the time the card complained of was played. Without attending to these preliminaries no criticism is of any value. Say, for instance, you want three tricks to make the game, and your partner has a winning card in his hand, and he ought to know that you have the two last trumps,—if you say, "Partner you ought to have led your winning card," nine times out of ten he will declare you are abusing him, but if you explain quietly why he should have known that you had the two last trumps, and shew him the state of the score at the time he played, he can scarcely fail to see that not to lead out any winning card he possessed was a heinous offence. We are quite aware he will say he did not know that you had the two trumps, and if so, it is simply useless talk, because there are players that know absolutely nothing of the subject. They neither know the number of trumps in, nor who has them; and what is perhaps worse, they never think of the score at all. To these players criticism is useless. It is but an interruption to the game. It may make you or your partner angry, and is better avoided. But if the player is a beginner, if he possess any brains, nothing is more likely to improve his play than to point out such simple matters as the one on which we are dilating. The "ought-to-have-known" argument is generally useless, because that which they ought to know they do not know, and points that are obvious to good players are hidden mysteries to the muff. Take a common case, to exhibit what a player knows or ought to know, and which one we saw playing yesterday did not know. Original lead, small Heart, won third hand with the King. Knave returned, won by original leader with Ace. A small Heart led; second hand was void of the suit, and having Queen and another trump, his partner having turned up the King, he trumped with the 2. Now, what did this player know of the game? Who could have the Queen but his partner? And if he were under the impression that the player over him had no more because of the return of the Knave, what benefit could he derive by trumping with the 2? This is a specimen of bad play with which we constantly meet, and the player was angry because his partner (a really good-natured man) in the meekest tone said, "Partner, how could you trump that Heart?" The player in question was quite incompetent to draw the most obvious inference. He no more knew who had the Queen than a child unborn: but he was very angry that any one should presume to criticise his play; and so it will be found in a large majority of instances, the player does not understand why you criticise. He has not the facts before him that you think he has, and your argument is thrown away. He does not know, and it is useless to assume that he does. Play can only be regulated on the assumption that you know the position of the cards. The position can only be known by carefully watching and accurately drawing inferences as the play proceeds; and if a player cannot draw the inference as to who possesses the Queen in the position stated, how can you expect a player at the end of the hand to know that the holder of the Queen not only has the Queen, but Queen and another left. Yet, on the assumption that the suit is not led a third time, an ordinary observer will for the purposes of his play assume that the Queen and another of this suit are in his partner's hand, and this little piece of information acquired thus early in the game may, nay probably will, regulate the conduct of the hand. It is easy to see how this may be. With this second Heart in your partner's hand, and being safe in the two other suits, the moment a player who made this mistake got in he might be justified in leading his trump Queen. But how can you explain to the duffer that he played wrong in not leading the trump in this position? The argument would be too long and elaborate to explain. And if the holder of the Trump Queen had been a good player and led it without a happy result, would not the muff scold, and ask what there was in the hand to justify the lead of a trump. We can see the face of the unhappy man, and can realize the mental torture to which he must submit.

To give another instance, our partner led the Diamond 7. On the second round of the suit he dropped the

2, and the third time the 3. The cards left in were the Diamond 10 and 5. If we knew who possessed these cards no damage could come to us. Our partner was a muff. He knew nothing of Cam or his lowest but one lead, and we thought it best to play on the assumption that he had a reason for what he did, and we read the hand in this way: Partner cannot have a Diamond, his 7 must have been the best of his suit; he may have two Ace Qn suits, and would not lead from his 4 suit because it was trumps—a bad reason we think, but an intelligible reason. We led our best trump. We found our partner with nothing in trump, but with the Diamond 10. We had thrown away the only chance we had of saving the game entirely from our rash lead of our best trumps. Is there any bad player in England that would not scold us for our play. The points that cause a good player to lead trumps are often so slight as to be imperceptible to the novice, and a lead which to him seems rash and uncalled for is often the result of sound reasoning. Ours was risky play. Our premises were wrong, and our partner would say, how could you play thus. Well, it is difficult to answer why we led trumps; we acted on the assumption that we knew what we did not know, and like other ignorant and presumptuous mortals came to grief. We were scolded for our bad play, and it was useless pointing out why the bad play came about.

When men say, Whist is a disagreeable game because, at the end of the hand there is always so much fault-finding, we reply, that this arises from the ignorance and stupidity of the players; and until Whist is played with much greater care than it is at present, fault-finding there must be. But the bad players reply, "that is all very well; but if two good players get together there is the same fault-finding." This is not entirely true; for faults like those which the bad players commit are not committed by the good players. Nevertheless, good players, of course, make many mistakes, and the best player that ever lived would admit the fact that of necessity he must make mistakes. The beauty of the game would be lost if the variations were not infinite. The game is made up of a series of chances, which may or may not come off; and that player is the best who makes the most of his chances. If every finesse succeeded, then we should have nothing to do but to finesse. In reality we must finesse with judgment or not at all. We are not about to contend that good players are always courteous to each other, or that they point out the mistakes committed in a kind and genial manner—we wish we could with justice thus speak; but of this we are certain, the stronger the player the less likely is he to find fault; and as the result of our experience, we find the most ignorant players the most prone to fault-finding. The bad players might at any rate refrain from criticising until they can help getting angry at being criticized. Let the bad players set the example of being quiet, and we think we may answer for the good players that they will follow suit, be the provocation however great. The good players suffer ten times the torture of the inferior players, yet they grin and bear their afflictions with greater equanimity than their inferiors. The good player will forgive three offences where the bad player will not forgive one; and the bad player makes no allowance for the extra provocations the good player gets. It never fell to our lot to see a really good player scold a modest bad player; it is the fussy, officious, querulous, noisy bad player that gets scolded, and our verdict would be "serve him right" if it were not for the bad example it sets.

The criticism of the players is seldom of much value. The perfect criticism should come from a fine player overlooking the play of one hand; but how seldom can this be obtained. Taking the best players of our acquaintance, how little benefit do we ever derive from their remarks. One judges by results, and after the hand is over will say, I should have won or saved that game by playing so and so; this is no use to any one. It is scarcely necessary to add this critic does not give his reasons. Another critic looks at two hands and makes the same kind of remark, we presume to exhibit his own great knowledge. A third will know everything that can be known; and if he would but take a little more pains to say what he knows, and how he knows it, instead of putting himself in a rage, and chuckling at the players' stupidity, he might do more to leaven the mass than any body we know. But no man ever taught another who could not command his own temper. Nay, the tutor must not only command, but seem to command his temper. The difference may not seem great, but there are men who speak in a rage, and others who *appear* to speak in a rage when they are not. Neither of these are of any value as critics, although the words that drop from their mouths may be as pearls of great price. A stupid critic is an undoubted bore. "Why did you lead trumps?" We reply, by your play we thought you had the best Heart, and we were safe in Diamonds and Clubs; you purposely deceived us as to your Hearts and we came to grief, or, "You led Ace and another, and we thought you had 5, and it turned out you had 4." "You led from a three suit, and we thought you had four, and so on." We are put on the defensive, and reply; but it is generally best not to do so. A player originally leads the 9. Our partner, 2nd hand, puts on the Kg, which wins, and he returns the suit, we have Ace, Kv, 8 and third player finesses the 8, which appears a safe card. The original leader has led from Qn, 9, 2. The finesse is therefore a failure, and our critic remarks, with the greatest composure and delight, "Ah, I should not have been taken in in that way." Well we can't help it, we are taken in every day, and we are satisfied to be taken in as often as this lead occurs. The lead of the 9 from Qn, 9, 2, was one of those sparks of genius that will not often occur, and it had the reward due to so much originality. It is, however, a contingency too remote to be calculated upon being tried again. There is a very bad player whom we have in our eyes, who knows nothing of the game, and has the greatest possible contempt for book knowledge. When he criticises it is always on the same ground, "Oh, so and so is nothing but a book player." We trust our readers will never commit a worse fault than to prove themselves book players.

We have a high respect for book play, but we have so often expressed our views on the subject to the effect that books alone cannot make a good player, that we need not touch further on the point here. Perhaps the worst kind of criticism comes from the very worst player of all. He would watch the play of J. C., Cavendish, Cam, and Mogul, and pass his *ex cathedra* comments on their play in their presence, as to what they ought to have done, at the most critical moments, totally unaware that there was anything in their play above his comprehension. "Fools rush in where Angels fear to tread." It has often been said that lookers on see the best of the game. At Whist, the looker on very often has the advantage of seeing 2 hands, which Whist players as a rule do not, but, in spite of this advantage, we have very often been struck with the stupidity of the remarks addressed to us, and we have endeavoured to account for this phenomena. It seems to us that lookers on never know anything about such trivial matters as the "score," or how many honours there are known to be for or against the player criticised. Might we suggest to the critics that players are guided in their finesses, and are rash or cautious in their style of play by reason of little matters of this description. There are times when the young player is annoyed by the outsiders' remarks, that tend to call attention to the scoring of honours before the next trump card is turned; but the more elderly player looks on these remarks with much complacency. The height of bliss at Whist would be to take the money when we win, and make some talkative friend pay when we lose; and this is the satisfactory position in which our garrulous friends place us. To our young friends we would say, be calm under this infliction; the event will seldom happen; you will play in clover, and your friends will thereafter hold their tongue. Oh that we had the power to inflict a similar fine on the loud talkers.

A common form of remark is, "If you had led the losing trump, and left the fourth player with the lead, you must have won the game." There is something in this criticism, but the critic fails to remark that the fourth hand generally has the choice of leading the card our critic assumes he will lead *or another*, and although we think Whist players most genial and kind-hearted men, we seldom find that this feeling carries them to the extent of leading the suit the adversaries desire. There are instances of men who thus play, even when they are our opponents, and we cannot but express our gratitude for their kindness, and how much we desire that they may always exhibit the same spirit of charity and goodwill.

CAVENDISH ON DEALING.

In our Notices to Correspondents last month we inserted the following:—

Dealing.—There is a doubt as to which packet a card belongs. What is to be done?—*Ans.* Cavendish, in *The Field* of the 18th ult., says, "The custom is to allow the completion of the deal. If a card is lying doubtfully, the players, after taking up their hands, count them, and the doubtful card is assigned to the player who has but 12 cards." On this we remarked—This is a very loose way of construing the laws, and we enter a mild protest against such laxity. It is the duty of the dealer to deal the cards into packets, and if there be a doubt as to the position of any card it is his duty to solve the doubt by placing the cards to one or the other players, and if he puts it to the wrong pack it is a misdeal.

"Koh-i-Noor," in *The Field* of the 6th ult., drew attention to the point, and said:—"I have heard your decision, that the dealer is not bound to apportion the cards before turning up, much canvassed, and in some quarters the view is adverse to it." On this the Editor makes the following remarks:—

The "decision," as our correspondent calls it, [What else could he call it?—Ed.] respecting the due dealing of the cards in packets, is doubtless contrary to the strict law. It is, however, only stated what the *custom* is, and also admitted that the words of the law are not in conformity with the custom. We are sticklers for strict law in all games; but there are cases—such, for instance, as calling the turn-up if not taken in hand in due time—when the law is not usually insisted on. This is one of those cases. Gentlemen do not sit down to Whist to see how many penalties they can inflict on each other, but to enjoy themselves; at the same time, penalties for offences which do, or may do, serious damage to their interests, must of course be enforced.—Ed. *Field.*

The decision (we hope we shall not offend by the use of the word) being the deliberate opinion of so great an authority must be examined with more care than we previously thought it necessary to give to it. We fancied it was the decision of a good-natured man, for the moment too well contented with the world at large. Or that Cavendish, after a Croquet party, had been inveigled into a ladies' Whist-table, and that out of pure gallantry he had thus decided. By-the-bye, if ladies are to have their political rights is it not time that the gentlemen began to agitate for their rights when ladies play cards? But to return to Cavendish. As we understand the matter, he admits that his decision "is doubtless contrary to the strict law." The next sentence is somewhat confused, but it appears to mean that Cavendish has stated the custom, but the words of the law are not in conformity with the custom. We should have said—so much the worse for the custom. Cavendish says—so much the worse for the law. "I decide so and so, but I decide contrary to law." Very good; and if *The Field* Correspondents are satisfied with Cavendish's higher law, it is not for us to complain; but, on behalf of Whist players as a body, we respectfully protest against being bound by decisions, unless such decisions are in accordance with the law. There is a principle at stake on which Cavendish and we always appear to differ.

When there is an omission in the code, or the language is not clear, custom may be brought in to settle the difference, but no custom can upset a written law when the intentions of the law-makers are expressed in language that can be understood with a reasonable amount of attention. The duties of the dealer are to see that the cards are properly cut. To deal the cards into packets, one at a time, beginning to the left. Up to the time the trump card is turned the cards are entirely under his control. He must give to each person thirteen cards, and his duty is only performed when he has given the proper number to each player in the manner and order prescribed by the code. Cavendish has, however, a great respect for authority. We will draw his attention to the decision of a man of whom he has the highest opinion, it is as follows:—

"At the conclusion of the deal the trump card comes to the hand on the dealer's left. The dealer requests the players to count their cards. The player to the dealer's left appropriates a packet of cards lying a little to his own right hand, between himself and the dealer, and finds twelve cards in it; the other hands each contain thirteen. The dealer now claims the hand with twelve cards in it as his hand. Must the players accept the hands thus given to them, or is it a misdeal?—*Decision.* It is a misdeal. The fault is entirely with the dealer. If he deals so carelessly that there is any doubt as to the ownership of the hands, he must apportion them, and, having once done so, he must not shift the hands about so as to make a hand with twelve cards in it fall to himself."

This decision is not *exactly* in point, but the language of the decision is so entirely in accordance with our views that we cannot do better than repeat them, and apply them to the case before us. "The fault is entirely with the dealer. If he deals so carelessly that there is any doubt as to the ownership of the hands, he must apportion them." Substitute the word "cards" for "hands," *i. e.*, it is the duty of the dealer to apportion the cards as it is his duty to apportion the hands, and we have the case in point. We do not see how he can apportion the hands without apportioning the cards. The decision in question is that of Cavendish. It is Case 4, at p. 25 of his 8th edition. The book contains a Preface, with these words:—"Some cases and decisions are added; these, being approved by J. C., are submitted with confidence to the reader." We shall be glad to know which of these decisions is right; or whether both are right. We trust no future decision will be given to lessen the responsibility of the dealer; to allow him to do his work in a slovenly manner; or to permit him to put the cards round in such a manner that each man has to draw out his thirteen cards like tickets out of a bag. The code says, it is a misdeal (5) "should the dealer, under an impression that he has made a mistake, either count the cards on the table or the remainder of the pack." The men who look at laws in the same light that Cavendish does say, "Oh, do not be so particular; why should not the players count the cards face downwards? What harm does it do?"—and so on. We see little harm in it. Law 5 might go, and we should be none the worse; but if we have a law, let us keep to it, or throw the code overboard altogether. Do not at one moment say, if you count the cards you misdeal, and at the next that you may ask your partner to count his cards, or insist on your adversary counting his to get out of a difficulty caused by carelessness and inattention. The principle involved in this case governs many others, and it is because our Whist judges do not seem to understand the principle that we have so often to express dissatisfaction with their decisions. The laws themselves are far from perfect; they are often extremely difficult to understand, and decisions, such as the one on which we have commented, render "confusion worse confounded." We trust Cavendish will return to his old love before he is too much smitten with the new. Since January 1868 at any rate this law has been recognized as sound law, and we know of nothing that has occurred which justifies Judge Cavendish sitting alone to upset a decision of Justices J. C. and Cavendish sitting together.

DOUBLE DUMMY.

HAND No. LI. Played at the Westminster Chess Club.

A's HAND.—S A, Kg, 10, 7; C Kv, 6, 4; D 8, 7; H Kg, Kv, 9, 8.

X's HAND.—S Qn, 6, 4, 2; H Qn; D 3; C A, Kg, 10, 9, 5, 3, 2.

B's HAND.—S 8, 3; H 10, 3; C Qn, 8; D Kg, Qn, Kv, 10, 6, 5, 4.

Z's HAND.—H A, 7, 6, 5, 4, 2; C 7; S Kv, 9, 5; D A, 9, 2.

H trumps. A led, and made the odd trick.

DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM.

No. LII. By F. H. LEWIS.

A's HAND.—S A, Kg, Kv, 9; C A, 10, 7; H Qn, Kv, 4; D Kv, 6, 5.

X's HAND.—S Qn, 8, 5, 4; C Qn, Kv, 9; H Kg, 8, 7, 6; D Kg, Qn.

B's HAND.—S 3, 2; C Kg, 5, 3; H A, 10, 9, 3, 2; D A, 10, 7.

Z's HAND.—S 10, 7, 6; C 8, 6, 4, 2; H 5; D 9, 8, 4, 3, 2.

S trumps. A to lead, and A and B to make six by cards.

THE LATE WHIST MATCH.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—Your readers will, I hope, excuse me for troubling them with a few more words on this rather threadbare matter.

My suggestion was that you should state what honors were *scored*, as distinct from what were *held*, by each side. So that an opinion might be formed how each side would have fared if honors had not been scored. The point of the suggestion is consequently lost when you treat them as identical, but surely there must have been plenty of cases in the match when honors were held but not scored, owing to the game being won by tricks.

Still, if you will but correct your calculations of how many each side scored by honors, by multiplying the number of times either side held 2 by honors by 2, instead of merely adding in those numbers, you will find the balance to be against the Cavendish rather than in its favor, as stated.

I should like your readers to know that the three hands given in your last are all reported from memory, without notes, and without any discussion at the moment of play to fix them in the memory. Neither my partner nor self can recollect either of them, and as regards No. 93, I confess that, knowing my partner's play, I find myself unable to believe, 1. That he played as stated, and 2. That if he had I should not have observed it. I do recollect a hand in which at about the 5th trick he trumped 2nd hand with knave turned up, and his subsequent play was, in my opinion, the only occasion during the match in which he came what I call a "cropper," but in that case the rest of the hands after trick No. 5 were different to those given in No. 93. It is clear, for another reason, that there is some mistake about that hand, as the players never sat in the order stated.

My remarks on hand No. 29 were not intended for publication, otherwise I should have felt bound to have made my meaning clearer. MOGUL.

[The position of the players in hand No. 93 was—A. (Editor); B. (Mr. Belaieff). The latter gentleman had pointed out this mistake before the receipt of Mogul's letter. We are sorry we are unable to give the honors actually scored, but we are obliged to Mogul for his suggestion, because if it is understood this is the fact to be ascertained, it will be quite easy to get it the next time a match is played. But how does Mogul propose to score when we get 4 by cards and 2 by honors, or 3 by cards and 4 by honors? We are inclined to think the total No. of honors held is the more important point, because the honors, whether scored or not, count in trick making power. We have heard of no challenge for the cup yet. We trust some enterprising Club will come forward. If beaten, they will have the opportunity of seeing some good play, which is generally an object Whist players have in view.—*Ed.*]

ON CHEATING AT CARDS.

"Surely, the pleasure is as great
In being cheated as to cheat."—HUDIBRAS.

COME to my aid, ye Nine, my pen inspire
With deepest pathos and impassioned fire;
Let sarcasm, bitter, with'ring and severe,
Denounce the cheat, and let his cheats appear.
Poetic thunderbolts, be rashly hurled,
"To whip the rascal naked thro' the world,"
Whose deeds of cheating, like dark deeds of night,
Shall be transparent and expos'd to light.

Like the foul spider, waiting for his prey
In tangled web, will watch the longest day,
While all around seems innocent and fair,
Despoils his victim in his hateful snare;
So does the cheat, 'neath Honesty's disguise,
Betray his neighbour with his odious lies;
Deigns to deceive, with specious tongue and glib,
And only joins in Cribbage but to "crib."

At Picquet too, his wretched tricks are seen,
By basely plucking players that are green;
Watching the dealer, with averted eye,
Beneath the guise of "sweet simplicity."
In shuffling, over-counting and finesse,
In arts of juggling as occasions press,
With callous boldness falsely calling "game,"
Proving that lies and cheating are the same.

The rogue at cards his just reward shall meet,
Contempt shall crown his vile designs to cheat;
All honest men shall scout the recreant slave,
And point his photograph in every knave;
His grov'ling, low and mercenary soul
Shall be as far from Trumps as Pole to Pole.
Fair play's a jewel (Diamonds), but the Clubs
Shall crush with iron hand dishonest cubs.

MACHAON.

BILL AND I.

We two had been—well, never mind;
The past is nought to any man;
And future comes, as to the blind
Who pace a deep-girt forest glade,
To feel the sunshine and the shade
Creep over being's viewless plan.

We wandered on a trackless sea,
As willed those pilots of the air,
Who drove us here, or wafted there;
And each day waned more drearily,
For each still shrunk the scanty store,
That parted hunger from despair.
At last we'd nothing left to share,
Save certainty that hope was o'er.

Thoughts gendered in our lurid eyes,
Which flashed with wild infernal fires,
Fed by those ravenous desires,
Whose fearful shadows 'gan to rise.
We neither dared to dose that night,
For death was in the womb of sleep,
And every bond of life was gone,
Which bade a man his brother keep.
So, through the dark we drifted on,
Each watching weary for the light—
We grimly smiled to see it leap
From a huge black cloud, on the deep,
And slowly make the billows bright.

But both in sullen silence sat,
Till Bill gave fashion to our thought:—
"You see, mate, in the locker's naught,
And we shall surely starve on that.
So one, or both of us, must die!
What say you? Shall we cut for Knaves;
The Jack of Clubs to give one right
To rule the line of destiny?
The other—why, he, dying, saves
A comrade for felicity!"

Then, with a hollow hungry laugh,
Fierce, feline, in its ev'ry tone,
He seized the greasy crumpled pack,
Which oft had shortened merry hour,
While thoughtless ease retained the power,
From pleasure's tide, a joy to quaff.
The cards he shuffled to and fro,
With trembling hands, affecting ease,
And ere I stammered out a "No!"
With haughty gesture, flung me one,
And faced another on my knees.

The hardness of a hateful age,
Seemed gathered to a moment's head,
As in Bill's quiv'ring face I read
The livid lines of desp'rate dread,
That flared through famished rage
For food—which my flesh must assuage.
Why should I pause, lest fate should yield
That glaring demon to my hand?
His sympathies were gone, or steeled
To nature's uttermost demand.

I turned my card—the Knave of Spades
Was greeted by a boisterous roar—
In haste the harmless toy I tore,
Then dared again the doom of fate;
For pride, when mocking passion aids,
Can scale remorse, and hell explore,
Where loving is transformed to hate.

Again we drew; and still again;
Until the cards were shrunk to three—
Each with suspense shook visibly,
But Bill breathed hard—he seemed to see
The hidden features of the bane
He must discover presently.
Then from my heart, a hellish glee
Burst bitterly the bonds of law,
For, in his face
I soon could trace
He knew what card he was to draw.

One hand was stretched to take his lot,
The other stealthy sought his side,
While mine in quick response must glide
Toward weapons that I had forgot.
Our eyes grew venomous with light;
The blood ebbed from each quivering cheek,
Both mustered breath, as thought to speak
The thunders of offended right;
And half the turning of a hair,
Had brought that bloody demon there,
Who rules o'er ruthless fight.

But then, from out a boiling sea,
Uprose a finny flock,
Who blindly smote with sudden shock,
Upon our misery.
Or striking the expanded sail,
In manna strange, poured down like hail,
The life that lendeth life;
Nor need you ask if we forbore
The frenzy of our strife,
Or took from God's hand thankfully,
What nature needed sore.

That eve, a tall ship hove in sight,
And we were ta'en on board,
So utterly bereft of might
Life seemed a loss restored,
When shrivelled Hope had taken flight,
Out-wearied with his ward.

Robt. B. Holt.

THE LAWS OF CROQUET.

We last year noticed seriatim the Laws of Croquet adopted by the general Conference of Croquet Clubs, and gave them a qualified approval. We stated our opinion that the course taken by the National Croquet Club, in calling the Secretaries together, was the proper means of obtaining a good code, but we could not go so far as to say the code obtained was by any means perfect. Several rules which favour the bad player, and compliment him in giving him an occasional victory over a first-rate player, which he could not otherwise hope for, were retained; and this alone was a serious fault in the laws. Still, the code was indisputably the best which had appeared, and seemed to give a fair foundation for one in the ensuing year. It wanted very little to make it a thoroughly good code. Alas! that very little has been wanting. On receiving the revised laws, our feeling, beyond that of disappointment, was one of pure astonishment. We are able to make allowances, knowing, as we do, the difficulty which exists in framing a body of laws at once clear, simple, and comprehensive; but really we should have thought it almost as difficult to get together a body of gentlemen who should know so little of their subject as the authors of the late revision. This may seem at first, to those who have not looked through the code, too strong an assertion, but we shall come presently to particulars which will bear out what we say only too clearly. Prolixity and confusedness seem the grand characteristics of this new revision. Some of the laws amuse themselves and the reader by stating mere impossibilities; some flatly contradict themselves, and some are so confused that it would defy the ability of Mr. Bradshaw to define their meaning.

Finding such a conspicuous absence of talent in the laws themselves, we were naturally bent on finding out who it could be who had been engaged in the task. We took it for granted at first that it must be the work of men strong in the game itself; and we began to form a syllogism, with an undistributed middle, that as the code had been revised by first-rate Croquet players, and as the revision was an eminently weak one, therefore all first-rate Croquet players are eminently weak. But on referring to the *Field* of the 25th February, we found, to our no little wonder, that our imperfect syllogism was a baseless piece of sophism. It is hardly credible, but it is nevertheless true, that on the revising list there is not found the name of any first-rate player. Great players at Croquet are as much celebrities as great players at Billiards; and what should we think of a serious alteration in the laws of Billiards, on which neither Roberts the elder, Cook, Bennett, and Roberts the younger, were thought worthy to be consulted? A preface to the laws themselves, by the way, speaks of the "Committee appointed to revise the Laws of Croquet," but who the Committee was appointed by, if not by itself, we confess to be ignorant. What we do know is, that the list does not contain the name of Mr. Law, the champion, nor of Mr. Peel, the ex-champion, nor of Mr. Riky, nor of Mr. Whitmore, nor of Mr. Muntz, nor of (last, not least) Mr. Heath junior. These are names well known and trusted by the Croquet world; and the presence of any two of them would have been a fair guarantee against the introduction of absurdities. These gentlemen are all conspicuous alike for their skill and their absence from the revising list,—we are, however, bound to say that the mystery of the absurdity of the rules is in some measure satisfactorily accounted for by the fact.

An assumed authority not challenged will often become a real authority, and a king de facto is a statutable creature. Therefore the usurpation of an unfounded authority should be questioned betimes by the wise. It is true, usurpation may be in part compensated for by the evidence of a good reign, but when an injurious dominion follows on a usurped title, the thing is intolerable. This is the present state of the case. An unauthorized body has furnished us with a set of bad laws. We can only hope for a good set when a code comes to us framed by able hands, properly delegated by the authority of the Croquet Clubs.

Now for the laws themselves, as revised. We cannot say we are about to speak of them on their merits, for a simple reason which the reader will easily be able to supply. And first for the preface. The Committee tell us they have added definitions of technical terms; and the only objection to this is that the terms they use are wrong. They also tell us, very truly, that the laws respecting playing out of turn, and with the wrong ball, have always been *difficult of interpretation*. But we would ask any candid person, is that any reason why they should go and make them *impossible of interpretation?*

After the preface come recommendations, which we recommend no one to accept. You are recommended to have a full-sized Croquet ground of 40 by 30 yards, which is such a size that, taking the counties through, the number of full-sized grounds of this dimension would hardly be a dozen to a county. Then come the settings. There is the old setting, which is nearly obsolete; and the central hoop setting only altered for the worse. There must of course be always a sort of sheep run up to a centre hoop, and a hoop in this position is quite sufficient, with the assistance of a good long drought, to put a Croquet lawn into the worst possible condition. Next comes a six-hoop setting, which the Committee have coolly introduced to the Croquet world, though that world is entirely ignorant of the stranger it is expected to welcome, and has not the least idea whose bantling it is. We confess that it looks to us like a very sickly child.

Now come the laws proper. A player may strike with any part of his mallet. We were of opinion always that to strike with the side of the mallet-head was objectionable, but we presume that now, when a ball is badly wired, we shall see Croquet players lying flat on the ground, and using the handle of the mallet like a Billiard cue.

In rule 3, the choice of lead is kept alternate. Why should this be? The law of Billiards is surely much simpler, that the winner of one game should begin the next.

In rule 16, the law of pegging out, the most objectionable rule which could possibly exist in a game, is studiously maintained. The reasons for its abolition are so strong and obvious, and so well known, that it is hardly worth while repeating them. Let a second or third-rate player (say any one on the Revising Committee) play with the champion, Mr. Law; should he only succeed in pegging out one of the balls, while there is a single hoop to make with the other, not all the extraordinary skill of the champion would avail to redeem the game. The law is a premium on insufficiency and unskilfulness. It is a compliment paid to awkwardness and ignorance, at the expense of knowledge and of skill.

But let the law be ever so bad it is completely put into the shade by the one that follows. Rule 17 directs that "a player who pegs out a rover by a roquet loses the remainder of his turn." We have sometimes heard a feeble argument violently maintained (as most feeble arguments are), that the loss of turn is a logical sequence of the stroke. It is not so. The player is logically entitled to a continuation of his turn. The fact of the other ball being struck against the peg is an after accident. The claim is on the roquet, which is prior to the extinction of the other ball. It is, however, not in accordance with the general principles of games that a hard and fast logic should be observed in the framing of the laws. The thing is to punish errors properly, and to make such safeguards for skill, that the reward of good play shall not be lost. By this absurd rule actual skill is severely and directly punished.

Rule 22 provides that the striker's ball sent within 3 feet of the boundary may be brought into the ground 3 feet, or played from where it lies. The rule should be supplemented, so that not only the striker's ball, but the one he has last played on might also be brought on, or Croqued from where it lies, at the option of the player. This is an improvement on the old law which the Revising Committee has skilfully missed.

Next we come to rule 25, which treats of foul strokes. They number from A to K, and we must necessarily presume that the whole category is given; for what would be the use of making a list of foul strokes, and leaving out half their number? To this law we shall often have occasion to refer.

Now ensues a horrible confusion of ideas, and rule 28 begins it. This provides that if a player play out of turn, the stroke and all subsequent strokes made in that turn are *foul*. Here we naturally turn to rule 25, above alluded to, which provides for foul strokes; but we don't find playing out of turn in the category at all! Well, naturally enough; for the stroke is not a foul stroke, but one in error. But what shall we say of a Committee that is so ignorant of the A. B. C. of games, that it cannot distinguish between a foul stroke and a stroke in error? But further, the penalty for a stroke in error and for a foul stroke are quite different. A foul stroke terminates the turn, and loses a single point made, whereas playing out of turn loses all points made. But we shall find that from this part of the rules, confusion gets at every step more confounded, until in rule 33 the very acme of muddle-headedness is reached. After 33 to the end the rules are tolerably clear, as we often see a raving and delirious patient enjoy a few moments consciousness before his death. To return to 28, the Committee seem to have had a glimmering idea that as they probably could not understand their own rules themselves, perhaps other people might fail equally to elicit a meaning. They accordingly follow up the rule itself by examples a foot long, of which we will only say that the ability displayed in explanation makes the rule more difficult to understand than if it were left alone.

Rule 29 is headed "playing for wrong point." This rule also persists in calling a stroke in error a foul stroke; and the reader may in vain refer to the category of foul strokes, under 25, for the mistake of playing for a wrong point. Again the Committee fire off two examples, like a becalmed ship feeling her way, by gun signals, through a dense fog.

Rule 30, which treats of "playing with wrong ball belonging to own side," steadily adheres to the old error, and introduces one or two new ones. "If a player play with a ball belonging to his own side" (we give the rule in full), "not being the ball next in rotation, the stroke and all subsequent strokes are *foul*. But if the adverse side play without claiming the foul" (the Committee might just as well have spelt the word fowl; it would have been not a whit more or less ridiculous) "the turn holds good, and the points made are scored to the ball played with. The adversary" (continues this wise Committee) "may elect which ball of his side shall follow, whether the error be discovered or not"!!! In the name of fortune and of the sister Isle, how can he possibly do so? Really the gentleman who worded this especial rule must be an Irishman, and a very funny one too. We were much amused at hearing an instance of the great clearness of this wonderful rule some days ago. A gentleman who was playing with a generous antagonist, who would take no advantage of mistakes, was reminded that he was going to play with the wrong ball, 2 instead of 4. "Oh," replied the other, "I know it's my wrong ball, but I am at perfect liberty to play with it." "Why?" asked his antagonist. "Why!" was the answer. "Why, because I have not discovered your mistake. It's in the rules. Here they are." Yes, it is a perfectly fair illustration. *The adversary may elect which ball of his side shall follow, whether the error be discovered or not.* Of course rule 30 is followed by an example, by way of an explanatory exercise, but as the example does not state that the end of the rule was simply meant as a joke, we are bound, in politeness, to believe the Committee were serious, though it is impossible for us to be so.

Rule 31, mystified as usual by an example, treats of the error of playing with the adversaries ball. This

again, is put down as a foul stroke, and the rule concludes with the same nonsense as before, viz., that after the mistake has been made, "the adversary may elect which ball of his side shall follow, whether the error be discovered or not."

Now comes rule 32, which gives the case of playing out of turn and with the wrong ball, and need not have been treated of at all, the cases having already been provided for. The rule says, that if a player play out of turn, and also with the wrong ball, he is liable to laws 30 and 31. Well, you can't hang a man twice; and we don't suppose that any body could be so stupid as to imagine that because a man had made two mistakes in one turn, the one counteracted the other, and put him in the right. But, no matter; the rule is quite useless; but it is another law, and if brevity is the soul of wit, prolixity seems clearly to be the soul of Croquet laws.

We now get into the thickest part of the fog, and presume that all the ammunition has been expended, as no examples are fired off by way of fog signals. The rule is headed "Successive foul strokes," which itself is an absurdity; for if a foul stroke is not discovered, it is condoned by the fact of non-discovery; and, if discovered, it ends the turn, and cannot be succeeded by other foul strokes. Then the rule alludes to laws 28—31, as to what may constitute foul strokes; and then to law 25, as to the penalty to be inflicted on them. We have already shewn that the errors of play treated of in rules 28 to 31 are not foul strokes, and are consequently not to be found in 25. We have also shewn that the penalty in 25 is different from that enforced in rules 28 to 31; so that the whole of rule 33 is a muddle. Yet even the muddle is not yet complete, as will be seen by giving *verbatim* the end of this wonderful rule. "When a succession of foul strokes is made (see laws 28—31) the penalty (see law 25) is taken on the stroke immediately preceding the claim of a foul, and points made by the previous foul strokes are not scored." Can any body understand this? It really beats all that has gone before. First of all, the player is judged by rules 28—31, and loses the benefit of all his strokes; then he is judged by rule 25, and loses only one; then he is judged by rule 33, and loses the benefit of all strokes except the last! So that if the player had made a succession of foul strokes from the first to last hoop (which is impossible) and been discovered at the last, all the previous points will be taken from him except that one. Thus a player may, early in the game, have made the last hoop, and the last hoop only. And oh, for the poor fellow's mind! For at one time the stroke is to be judged as a foul, and is to receive the punishment of a stroke in error; at another, while it is to be counted a stroke in error, and receive the punishment of a foul; and finally, it is to be a stroke peculiar to itself, in order to judge of which you are called upon to refer to laws 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 33; and having referred to all these, you are to be guided by 33, which contradicts itself. This would appear to be the meaning of this law, if legislation of this sort can be complimented with the name of meaning. The task of making laws for strokes in error seems to have been the *pons asinorum* of the committee, a high-backed problem which none of the revising gentlemen could get over. It is not, however, to be forgotten that the code is faulty throughout. The only difference between the first and last part of it is that the first is seriously bad, and the last is laughably bad. But it really is a pity that the revision should have been entrusted (how or by whom we know not) to hands conspicuously incompetent to perform the task entrusted to them.

The work of the secretaries in 1870 appears to be already half undone. Why did these gentlemen go a certain distance in the right direction, and then stop short, leaving their labors but half accomplished? A half-completed work so easily falls to pieces. The only thing now to be done is for the secretaries to reassemble, and draw up a sound and sensible code. And should it be found that such a code would require, in these early days of Croquet, revision from time to time, they might form a standing Committee of seven or eight of the known best players, whose names might be printed on the title-page of future editions, which would be a guarantee to the public of the task having been committed to proper hands, and a safeguard against the introduction of confused rules and absurd mistakes.

THE FIELD'S LAST.

SIR,—You have from time to time pointed out the perfection to which The Field has brought the art of puffing. I agree that your contemporary's lights should not be hidden under a bushel. Since you last mentioned the subject he has much improved. He has this time hit on something original—a truly grand idea. Your readers are aware that the All England Croquet Club is under the especial patronage and protection of The Field (a patronage, I am bound to say, somewhat oppressive). A little of "the Field" is a very good thing, so is a little quince in an apple pie; but an apple pie made of nothing but quinces is unpleasant to the palate. So at the All England Croquet Club a little Field was an addition to its strength, but I cannot say the Club is the better for being Field—and nothing else. Your readers are acquainted with the name of Benjamin, the tailor, who invented the Ulster Croquet Suit. Mr. Benjamin sought out the King of the Puffers to assist in a GRAND operation! This was no other than that the Field's representative should appear and play in

the Ulster suit in the last match of the All England Croquet Club. This was actually done, and the Field's representative became Mr. Benjamin's Walking Gentleman. It is scarcely necessary to say the tailor's art was exhausted on the occasion. The Croquet Editor appeared in an entirely new suit as a Tailor's Dummy (his first appearance in this character). The coat was wondrously made, and was designated (whether by the inventor or not we cannot say) the "Jewish Gaberdine." But pride must have its fall. This, our "model," became puffed up with the greatness thrust upon him. He cast his eagle eye around, and caught the glances of admiration bestowed upon him. He rushed on to victory, and was carrying all before him, when the wind caught the sleeve of this elegant gaberdine and he missed his aim. "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity," saith the preacher.

Your obedient servant,

Wimbledon, May 1871. L. M.

[On May the 6th Mr. Benjamin's clothes were duly praised. "The Ulster Croquet Suit has been sent to us for Notice. We have tried the suit [at Wimbledon], and it is well suited to the Croquet Player." We gladly chronicle this openness on the part of the Field. There is no beating about the bush in the matter. The contract implied appears to run—"We want a suit of clothes: will any tailor send us one? We will acknowledge the gift, and write what we think of the clothes. Between ourselves we do not look a gift horse in the mouth. Cash is scarce, but any quantity of praise is at our command. To you praise is better than money; therefore, give us clothes in exchange for our puffs. N.B.—We must be measured and properly fitted." There is an Arcadian simplicity about this matter we much admire. We have received three other letters on the subject. In one the writer suggests that "the proprietors of the paper ought to be indicted for cruelty to animals, for sending out their unhappy contributor to undergo so much derision." The other says, "the poor man ought to have been an object of pity instead of derision, and she is surprised at the exhibition of so much unfeeling conduct on the part of the members of the club," whilst the third suggests, "the umpire should appear as a Sandwich Man, and carry out his own suggestion by wearing a coal-heaver's hat. This would make a charming addition to the landscape, which at present is decidedly wanting in beauty." We commend these suggestions to our contemporary, in all humility.—Ed.]

GRAND NATIONAL CROQUET CLUB.

The annual contest for the Championship held by this Club at Oxford on the 10th and 11th of May went off with the utmost success. The attendance of visitors was larger than any we have seen hitherto to witness a Croquet match. The details of the contest are already known to our readers through the weekly and daily press. Suffice it to say that Mr. Law again maintained his place as Champion of all England, and Mr. Whitmore for the fourth year appeared in the second place. Mr. Peel's play appears not quite so strong as it was, or Mr. Muntz's stronger (we are inclined to think the latter), as Mr. Muntz came off victorious in the first round. All the best players entered, with the exception of Mr. Heath. The skill displayed was far beyond anything which has been witnessed before. The courtesy of the Merton College Cricket Club in placing the ground on this occasion at the disposal of the Grand National Croquet Club has to a great extent had the effect of making Croquet a University game. With reference to the Club we have received the following:—

Sir,—The All England Croquet Club objects, I understand, to the Grand National Croquet Club calling itself by its own name. This appears to be the case from a letter of Mr. Holloway, the Hon. Sec., to the *Field*, of the 20th May, and a luminous, or to speak more correctly, a *vo*luminous reply of the editor of that paper. Excessive is the wrath of your contemporary, who, for some reason or other which I am unable to explain, takes up the cudgels for the All England Croquet Club, and hits out right and left furiously. I give no opinion on the subject of dispute, but I am naturally grieved to see the editor so much put about. The note I allude to begins in the highest dudgeon, and gives clear evidence of the aggrieved state of the writer's mind: The name "Grand National" is quite as objectionable as the "National." Your contemporary thereupon expends his ire in calling the Club the "*old* National," the "*so-called* National," the "*late* National," the "*soi-disant* grand National,"—and all this in a single note; the answer to the temperate letter of the overwhelmed Mr. Holloway. The name National is not to be breathed in a whisper. I hear, indeed, from a correspondent, but whether he is rightly informed or not I cannot say, that the anger of the editor of the *Field* has gone to such lengths as to prohibit the use of this objectionable word in his paper at all; and the same writer inserts some advertisements which, as he says, have been refused by your contemporary on account of this abominable word appearing.

Notices said to be refused—

The *National* Society for Killing Fleas.

The Great *National* Association for the Show of Small Birds.

The *Grand National* Corn Plaster. Since the introduction, by Sir Robert Peel, of the great remedial measure, the corn-laws, no plaster has appeared at all equal to the one entitled the "Grand National."

I give these instances of supposed rejections in good faith, but solely on the credit of my correspondent,

who, I am bound to say, is not always reliable. I do not know in the present instance whether he is quite in earnest or not. If not, and the thing should appear to have been basely foisted on me as a mere skit, and you insert this letter, I beg, beforehand, to apologise to the *Field*. M. B.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—Will you be kind enough to insert in your next Paper the enclosed letter to the Editor of *The Field*, which appears to me to have been declined by that paper for no sufficient reason.

I am happy to avail myself of your columns to state that I have received some friendly letters from members of the All England Croquet Club, and that several of the members of that Club have joined the Grand National Croquet Club. It would thus appear that there are two parties in the All England Croquet Club, those who are satisfied with the steps we have taken, and are on friendly terms with us, and those who decline to be friends with us on any reasonable terms at all. All we can do is to take our hats off to these latter gentlemen, and politely wish them very good day. If we cannot be friends with certain persons, we are not going to be on bad terms with anybody.—I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

254 Hagley Road, Edgbaston,
22nd May 1871.

G. A. MUNTZ,
Hon. Treasurer, G. N. C. C.

P.S.—I see the Editor of *The Field* speaks of the members of the late National Croquet Club being lukewarm. He overlooks the fact that the large majority of the Club are country members who live at long distances from London, and to whom it is a great expense and trouble to go to town to vote.

The dissolution of the Club was brought about by a vote of the town members only, who, owing to the vagueness with which the rules were worded, were able to take the Club by surprise, and took advantage of their being in London to do so, in the face of the strongly expressed wish of the majority. Surely in such a case written opinions should have been taken as votes, and is it not a hitherto unheard of proceeding that a society numbering 90 members should be broken up by the vote of six, without any notice of the fact having been given that such a question was to be put to the vote?—G. A. M.

To the Editor of THE FIELD.

SIR,—I see a notice in your paper of last week, denying the right of the Club to which I have the honor to be Hon. Treasurer to the title of the National Croquet Club. Without admitting that we were wrong in reassuming the title of a Club which was broken up against the wish of the majority of its members, I beg to state on behalf of the Committee that our wish is to be on good terms with the All England Croquet Club if the All England Croquet Club will allow us to be so, and we have therefore, out of deference to objections made by certain members of that Club, made an alteration in our name and have taken the new title of the "Grand National Croquet Club." I wrote to you to this effect last week, but the letter was mislaid, and would therefore be too late for publication. Will you be kind enough to insert this letter in your next impression, and may we trust for the co-operation of your powerful paper to bring about a more friendly feeling between the two societies.—I am Sir, your obedient Servant,

254 Hagley Road, Edgbaston,
17th May 1871.

G. A. MUNTZ,
Hon. Treasurer G. N. C. C.

THE OXFORD TOURNAMENT.

IT has been industriously circulated among those who are not behind the scenes in the Croquet world that the contest which has been going on this week at Oxford is for the championship of that game. This is altogether a mistake,—not to use a stronger term; and, indeed, the so-called National Club, under whose management it has been conducted, has no right whatever to the title it assumes; the original Club, established two years ago under that name, having been formally amalgamated with the All England Croquet Club. With a knowledge of these unfounded pretensions to a status which it is manifest the new Club does not possess, most of the first players of the day have held aloof, including Messrs. Heath, Riky, Hale, Dalton and Jones; and for the same reason we must altogether decline to report the meeting.

The above extract is from *The Field* of Saturday, the 13th ult., and will explain the above letters. As we understand the matter, in future no Club can change its name without *The Field's* royal mandate. 2ndly. That the meeting of any Club from which Messrs. Heath, Riky, Hale, Dalton and Jones hold aloof are not to be reported in this Journal. The Paper that holds these views speaks of the "pretensions" of some body on the principle, we suppose, of "no case, abuse the plaintiff's attorney," or perhaps calling the kettle black might prevent the pot replying. The largest meeting held this year was at Oxford. The players were of some note. We will not be invidious, and compare them with the names that held aloof, but sufficiently strong to require notice. But, because the Club changes its name, or because the Club does not bow down and worship *The Field*, or because the Club has the presumption to ask, "Who made thee a king and a ruler over us?"

therefore our friend will not notice the Club meetings. We are not aware that any Paper, however unprincipled, ever before made such an avowal. *The Field* has an undoubted right to write on such subjects as it thinks proper. It can, if it choose, leave out Croquet, and we should have no cause of complaint; but if the Paper professes to give us Croquet information, surely we are defrauded of our rights, obtained by the payment of our 6d, if, from ill-temper and spleen, the Paper endeavours to burk information respecting one of the most influential Clubs and the best meeting held this year. It seems to us that *The Field*, in its rage, has taken up an untenable position. The public has its rights. The press its duties. It fails to perform this duty if a report is not given of the best meetings, whether it likes those meetings or not. If *The Field* will only report those meetings at which their staff assists, be it so, but do not let it be pretended that this Journal is the representative of Croquet, or that it gives us Croquet information whilst it represents and gives us information about a single Club (an influential and useful Club we admit), but a single Club for all that.

DRAMATIC NOTES.

It is asserted that London never was so full as at the present time. Hotels and lodging-houses are crowded to repletion, and the streets are daily crowded with hungry sightseers. The International Exhibition may partly account for this, but a more natural explanation lies in the fact that Paris being an unpleasant place to dwell in just now, those English and American people who usually patronise that city have come to London for want of a better place. Added to this, shoals of French people, driven from their homes, find an uncomfortable resting-place in this huge wilderness. It would naturally be supposed therefore that the theatres would participate in the general harvest, and that "crowded houses" would be a little more than the pleasant fiction of advertisements. But as far as it is possible for those outside the profession to judge, very few theatres are doing well. The Haymarket, where Mr. Sothern is a sure card to play, the Prince of Wales', the Olympic, and one or two more, may be making money; but frequent changes of the bill at some other establishments argues, in these days, a want of support. The New Royalty and the Court Theatres announce, at this early date, the last weeks of the season, in consequence of provincial engagements, and the major part of the Vaudeville company has already departed on a country tour. This growing practice of not merely prominent performers, but of the entire companies of London theatres dispersing themselves over the face of the country, threatens to drain the metropolis of the best dramatic talent we possess. If the reader will ransack the columns of the *Era*, and compile a list of the good actors and actresses who are in different parts of the provinces, and then compare the result with the performers now in London, he will probably come to the conclusion that the country has the advantage. The worst of it is, that whilst taking so much it returns us nothing, and leaves us what we could very well dispense with. The companies at certain London theatres, more especially those members belonging to the softer sex, would confer a benefit on the play-going public in transplanting themselves to the uttermost parts of the earth. At the Holborn Theatre, the spectator, after an uncomfortable suspicion that he has come by mistake to the wrong side of the street, becomes lost in amazement at the performers for selecting the dramatic profession as one in which they are likely to shine, and at the manager for exhibiting such a collection of curiosities. It is true that this latter personage may argue that his company costs him little, but then as they probably bring in nothing in the shape of money, the argument is not worth much. Theatrical management, however, is full of mysteries. It is a mystery that the Vaudeville company should leave London at the height of the season, at the very time that the *Two Roses* was produced last year with so much success. It is a mystery that managers, after so much experience, should still pin their faith on ladies who, whatever their physical qualifications may be, are ignorant of the rudiments of the English language. It is a mystery that they (the managers) should still continue to charge exorbitant prices for any seats short of a pig-stye, when it is proved, by the involuntary admission of the lessee of the Queen's, that theatres could be made profitable at a lower tariff. And if the foregoing mysteries are not sufficient explanation, it is also a mystery why the majority of the theatres should be so empty when London is so full. The high prices charged at the Opera Comique have undoubtedly prevented many people from witnessing the splendid performances of the Comèdie Française, which are quite good enough in themselves to make unnecessary the abundant and unpleasant flattery with which our critics bedaub the French *artistes*. No opportunity is lost of indulging in exaggerated and unfair comparisons between the French and English style of acting, and in their agony of depreciation of everything English, these gentlemen almost invite their foreign visitors to walk over their bodies. On the occasion of the Lord Chamberlain's interference with *Nos Intimes* at the Lyceum, one critic was seized with the apprehension that the French actors might avenge the insult by leaving the country in a body. This kind of gushing ceases to be criticism, and it is therefore not to be wondered at that certain faults of the French school—for instance, the habit of addressing the audience instead of each other—are entirely overlooked. Besides, we must repeat our conviction that there is abundant material in London and the country to make up two or three excellent companies, if only the material could be collected together. Nor is the blame altogether due to the actors, for this want of cohesion, for the flatterers of the Comèdie Française agree to forget the fact that if the English stage received the

State support that is given in France, we should soon be blessed with a well-trained staff of actors. What we have, and what we want, may be instanced by the performances at the Princesses Theatre, where, in Mr. Phelps, we have a comedian of the highest order; but he is supported so lamely, by the scratch company of the establishment, that the revivals of old comedies lose half their interest. Those who recollect the performance of the *Clandestine Marriage*, in 1857, by the well-drilled company which Mr. Phelps had gathered round him at Sadlers Wells, will regret that there is not some outside interest applied to keep together a collection of actors accustomed to play up to each other.

There is usually some exciting quarrel or controversy proceeding in theatrical matters, which, if it does not interest the public to any great extent, at least provides "copy" for weekly dramatic writers. Last month it was the question of free admissions; now it is the question of the originality of Mr. Tom Taylor, who is assailed by "Q." of the *Athenæum*, and defended by himself and Mr. Charles Reade. As to Mr. Tom Taylor's originality, we should think there is no question at all; but there is little doubt as to his merits as an adapter and a writer of entertaining dialogue. We owe to him some of the most enjoyable plays of the age, and a list of his popular works would outnumber those of any other dramatic writer. Still, it must be confessed that it interferes with our appreciation of Mr. Taylor to perpetually feel that we owe the basis of the entertainment to somebody else; just as a man would enjoy a good dinner much less if he were aware that though his host supplied the sauces himself, he appropriated the viands from the larder of his neighbour. As to the abolition of free admissions, the question has been dropped, and probably the abolition too. Whilst on this subject, we must express our sincere regret at having conferred deep humiliation on *Almaviva*, the lively critic of the *London Figaro*, in associating him with any work of reform. His objections on this score we admit to be sound, but we cannot follow him when he proceeds to charges of the vaguest description. We have not the remotest conception to what he refers, when he speaks of "implications and slanders;" and if he wishes to be intelligible, he should be more explicit. Nor can we accept him in any way as a guide in matters of etiquette; this quality being the last thing we should expect to find in the columns of the *London Figaro*. Is it etiquette for *Almaviva* so to misquote a sentence, to suit his own purposes, as to turn an innocent remark into a blatant boast? Is it etiquette to describe the age and literary standing of a person of whom he knows nothing? However, the *Figaro* would be very dull indeed without the contributions of *Almaviva*, whom we must presume, from his remarks, to be very aged and professional; so we must not quarrel with him if he occasionally attempts to be amusing at the expense of accuracy and good taste.

Mr. Byron is the hero of the month, as far as the English stage is concerned. In addition to *Daisy Farm* at the Olympic, and *The English Gentleman* at the Haymarket, he has contributed a new burlesque to the Vaudeville, and has revised one or two old ones for the Strand Theatre. We shall not inflict on our readers any notices of the burlesques of Mr. Byron, who is the chief of burlesque writers; nor of those by inferior writers which are being played at other theatres. They are not only beyond criticism, but there is a universal feeling that this form of entertainment should be allowed to gradually die out without notice. Mr. Byron calls *Daisy Farm* a domestic drama. We should be sorry to suppose that the misfortunes and crimes related in Mr. Byron's play are common occurrences in domestic life; but as there is a very large body of playgoers who prefer to see this sort of thing at theatres, and on whom *Tartuffe*, *The Man of the World*, or *Ours*, would be wasted, their desires could hardly be better administered to than by Mr. Byron in *Daisy Farm*. It is true that actual forgery, attempted murder, and supposed bigamy, are elements of the play, but they are treated in such a pleasant and easy way by the author that nobody is likely to have a nightmare after witnessing them. Mr. Byron does not afflict the audience with an actual representation of all these horrors, but they are alluded to, with an accompaniment of quips and cranks that take away the sting. Mr. Byron is also evidently fond of acting, though we do not think his talents lie in this direction. He has accordingly provided himself with a character in *Daisy Farm*, modelled after the Chorus of the Grecian drama. He walks through the play unconnected with the plot, but still the central figure, whom all confide in and seek advice from, occasionally turning and rending their benefactor. This character requires no great histrionic abilities, with the exception of ease and repose. Mr. Byron cannot be said to possess these qualities to any great extent as yet, but his representation is not unamusing, and his manner, as he stands, with his hands in his pockets, and his eyes half closed, the dialogue gradually leading up to some totally irrelevant joke, is productive of some amusement. *Daisy Farm* is much superior to the "comedy drama" contributed by Mr. Byron to the Haymarket Theatre, and to which he gives the long title *An English Gentleman; or, The Squire's Last Shilling*. The second title might more appropriately have been *Mr. Sothern's Last Adventures*, and the piece much more resembles a melo-dramatic farce than a comedy drama, whatever that may be. The scenes in which Mr. Sothern does not appear treat of forged wills, a decrepit old miser, and a dishonest steward, and are acted with experienced melo-dramatic vigour by Messrs. Howe and Chippendale. The rest is devoted to "Sothern" business, and to that sham sentimental nonsense which in modern comedies is pinned on to the English gentleman, the business of which consists in silent hand-shaking, eating of game pie, wearing of well cut light suits, and much smoking of cigars. The same thing, and a good deal too much of it, may be seen in any of Mr. Robertson's plays at the Prince of Wales' theatre. As for Mr. Sothern, he must be considered the luckiest actor of the day. He acts neither better nor worse than the average walking light comedian, yet his annual income is said to reach to many thousands, and

everything he says and does on the stage is received with inextinguishable laughter, more especially when he intends to be serious and pathetic. His one stroke of genius in Lord Dundreary has successfully carried him through all his subsequent common-place representations. The most noticeable thing in both of these two plays is, that Mr. Byron, who ought to know better, contrives to give an ancient and untrue picture of that much misunderstood personage, the British farmer. He must be well aware that neither the farmer in *Daisy Farm*, whose step son is a medical student, nor the tenant of many acres in *An English Gentleman*, is the coarse, corduroy breeches-wearing, kitchen-inhabiting, and broad-speaking lout in real life that he is represented to be at the Haymarket and Olympic Theatres. The majority of English farmers of the present day are equally English gentlemen, and are as well educated and as well mannered as the members of any other profession. What is true of the farmers, is true of the farmers' wives; and therefore the dress and bearing of the heroine in *Daisy Farm* is utterly anomalous and absurd.

The production of a version of Mr. Charles Dickens' novel of "Great Expectations" at the Court, and of a new play by Mr. Albery at the Vaudeville, take place too late for notice this month.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CHESS.

E. B., E. J. L.—Problems received, with thanks.

R. F. (Woolwich Common).—We are much obliged for the Knight's tour. Yours, inasmuch as it is *re-entering*, is more perfect geometrically, but we do not think it excels our frontispiece in beauty of design. We shall make use of it in a future Number.

JAMES CHATTO.—The problem referred to in our notice is not the one which appeared in the *Prize Competitors' Journal*.

F. E. BRENZINGER.—Copies of Index duly received. We hope you receive the *Westminster Papers*. Copies are forwarded to you regularly.

F. WILMOT wants to revive the "dead pawn" controversy. We cannot oblige him; neither can we inform him who originated the idea. According to Captain Cox it was "that heathen Chinee" who invented *Choke Choohongki*, or Chinese Chess. Those ancients stole all our "happy thoughts."

W. T. B.—Your problem is wrong. The third move of your "solution" does not give mate. For your information we may remark that K Q and B against K alone cannot mate on the Kt's second or seventh squares of the diagonal which is of that colour the Bishop moves upon. That is precisely what you suppose you have done, but it is impossible.

O. A. BROWNSON jun.—Many thanks for the journal. We have had the pleasure of sending you a packet through the Rev. Mr. D., who has lately honoured us with a visit.

A. B. jun. Liverpool.—We are much obliged for the game, which shall have early insertion.

F. W. H., Old Broad Street.—We know of no Chess club in the neighbourhood of Peckham. The London clubs are the Westminster, Robert-street, Adelphi; the St. George's and St. James's, both meeting at Palace-chambers, King-street, St. James's; and the City of London, which meets at the City of London Tavern, 11 Bishopsgate-street. The address of the South Bermondsey Club is 99 Bermondsey-street.

MAJOR C.—We cannot undertake to examine a problem unaccompanied by the solution. Please send us that of yours, and it shall have our best attention.

WHIST.

SUSAN (Deal).—Thanks for your poetry, which shall appear in our next. We shall be glad to hear from you again.

G. M.—Hand 8, 1870. The 8 of trumps would not be taken by A if fourth player had either Kv, 10 or 9, therefore the 8 must be the lowest of 4 (originally), not the highest of 3, these being the only cards above the 8 in.

J. B.—At the end of the hand I find I have only twelve cards. After some discussion and looking for the missing card, it is found that one of my adversaries has fourteen, and on further enquiry it turns out that he has taken up my trump card and played it. What is the law? *Ans.* You have played with twelve cards, one of your adversaries has fourteen, and it is therefore a misdeal.

LECTURE HALL, SYDENHAM.—At the end of the hand it is found one of the players has a card short, whilst the others have their right number. A card of the pack played with is found in the second pack. A new deal is claimed on the ground that the pack played with was imperfect. Please enlighten us on this?—*Ans.* Every player before he plays is bound to count his cards. The player in question failed to do so, and must take the consequences. The extra card belongs to the player having only 12 cards, although the card is found on the floor, or in the other pack, and if it turns out that the player with 12 cards has not followed suit when he could have done so (if the missing card had been in his hand) he has revoked. If the card happens to be of the suit of which the player had one in his hand until the last, or if the suit has not been again led since the defaulter followed suit, there is no penalty. The deal stands. If the missing card cannot be found then the person holding 12 cards must have revoked. The pack is not imperfect in the sense referred to in the law.

A. B. E.—If an outsider reminds a player that he has scored less than he is entitled to and the side thus assisted win the rubber, the adversaries (the losers) have a right to be paid, by the outsider, all stakes and bets on the game or rubber. This is not the etiquette; it is the law of Whist, and a player could no more think of refusing to pay under such circumstances than he would refuse to pay the points that he lost if playing himself. The remedy is the same whether a man does not pay his points, his bets, or the obligations imposed by Whist law.

IMPERIAL CLUB, G. C. W., T. L., A. B. jun.—Communications received with many thanks.

PICQUET.

M. and R. play. M. elder hand leads Heart Kg, and follows with the rest of his suit, say four cards. He then leads two cards of another suit to which R. plays, and he then exclaims, "I have made a mistake; I have the Heart Ace, and I failed to follow suit; I thought it was the Diamond Ace." And he claims to have the cards played over again. M. says, "No, it is true that by the ordinary rules of the game there is no such thing as a revoke, but in this case a higher law comes into operation. The wrongdoer must not profit by his own default. Here you, R, have got to see my cards by your carelessness, and you then claim to profit by your blunder."—*Query*—Must the cards be played over again? If so, is there no penalty for R.'s mistake?—*Ans.* There is no penalty, and the hand must be played again. The above case does not state whether R. had any small Hearts, and played them to the Hearts led by M. If he had he is not at liberty, on the hand being played again, to take the Kg of Hearts with the Ace, but must play first whatever small Hearts he has, as they were legitimately-played cards. I have consulted two of the eldest and best Picquet players in London, who agree with my decision. This practice is no doubt founded on the old axiom that "Picquet is not a game of surprise." The maxim is French as well as English, but I am unable to attach any meaning to it.—J. C.

The Westminster Papers.

1st JULY 1871.

THE CHESS WORLD.

"The whisperings of our petty burgh.

THE realization of any long expected event seems to obey an immutable law in creating a sense of disappointment, and either in the case of a dinner or a Chess match it is perhaps advisable to refrain from shouting until clear of the wood. The wisdom of this scrap of proverbial philosophy was made plain enough on the occasion of the match between the Westminster and City of London Chess Clubs. Most people, ourselves among the number, were somehow led to expect a gathering of chiefs, a complete surfeit of Chess talent on both sides; and it is therefore with some mortification we now admit that the feast must be characterized as Barmecidal. These two associations number amongst their members almost every player of the first rank in London, and yet only three of these—Messrs. Blackburne and Potter for the City, and Mr. Medley (whose devotion to the cause of Chess seems to be untiring as ever)—came forward to do battle for their respective Clubs. No share of the comparative failure is attributable to the City men. They won the match, and that is their justification for not bringing their reserves into action; but we can find no excuse for the Westminster Club throwing away its laurels without, it appears to us, an effort to retain them.

A match has been arranged between the Railway Clearing House Club and the Bermondsey Club, to come off on the 7th proximo. There will be twelve players on each side. The latter enterprising Club, which now holds, through its champion Mr. Beardsall, the prize cup of the Working Men's Union Chess Clubs, lately secured the services of Mr. Blackburne for an exhibition of his blindfold play. Mr. Blackburne accordingly contested six games simultaneously, and in the result won four and lost two, the Bermondsey winners being Messrs. Beardsall and Dudge.

A tournament, open to members only, is now in progress at the Birmingham Club, for three prizes presented by the Committee. The last tourney of this flourishing Club, for a champion board and men, was won by Mr. J. Halford of Tipton.

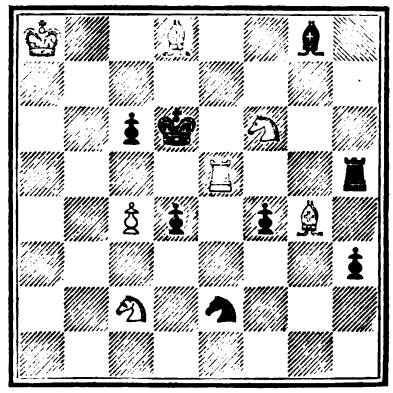
Our readers may remember that we expressed, in our last number, some doubt of the accuracy of the score in the match between Lancashire and Yorkshire. A valued correspondent has since informed us that some of the games set down as "unfinished," were in fact never begun. This explanation "fully accounts," as Mr. Toole says, with reference to an equally irrelevant matter, "for the quantity of milk to be found in cocoa-nuts."

In Australia a handicap tournament, under the auspices of the Melbourne Club, but open to all comers, was being organised at the date of our last exchanges. The tourney will be played in accordance with a novel scheme propounded by Mr. Stephen, secretary of the Melbourne Chess Club, to which we shall take an early opportunity of directing the attention of our readers.

The *Adelaide Observer* has an excellently played game, contested between Adelaide and Gawler, the former represented by Messrs. Steele, Scott and Charlick, and the latter by Dr. and Mrs. Popham and Mr. J. H. Howe. The game was played by telegraph, and notwithstanding the opposition of the fairer sex, was won by the Adelaide champions.

We were rather unfortunate last month in our selection of a specimen of Australian problems. Some good-natured friends—we omit the adjective—inform us that it admitted of solutions too numerous to mention. To make amends, we print in the margin another position by the same composer, Mr. Lulman, of the Melbourne Club. He would be a bold man indeed who guaranteed the accuracy of a problem, but we can safely aver that we have failed to discover any error in this one.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

We have lately been much exercised in spirit by the title attributed to a Chess Opening by our Transatlantic cousins. After the moves—

1 P to K 4	1 P to K B 4
2 P to Q 4	2 P to K Kt 3

the *Index* notes that Black's second move is called the "Salamonian defence." Can it be that the *a* is a misprint for *o*, and that this is the genuine opening practised by Solomon when he played with—

"Eastern beauties, gay with malice,
Drinking costly shiraz, hid
In an emerald chalice,"

as must have been his custom of an afternoon? Or is *Salamonia* a new word, and does it mean a new religion or an obsolete drug? We give it up to our Fossil contributor.

A proposition is being discussed in New York for a match to be played during the summer season between the players of that city and those of Brooklyn. The games to be played every Saturday evening, in both cities alternately.

The following game, played between two members of the Brooklyn Club, is taken from *The Index*. Its amusing character will, we think, compound with our readers for the length of the extract :—

White.	Black.
Mr. Todd.	Mr. Heydenrich.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to K B 3
3 B to B 4	3 B to B 4
4 P to Q Kt 4	

Mr. Todd thinks this a good move in almost any position, and calls it the Evans attack in the Petroff Defence.

4 B to Kt 3

Mr. Heydenrich never captures the Q Kt Pawn again, as it always proved fatal to him.

5 Kt takes P	5 Castles
6 P to Q 3	6 P to K R 3
7 B to Q R 3	

White cannot play his favourite move of Bishop to K Kt 5; so he plays him to R 3, and calls it a masked battery.

7 P to Q 3

Black, seeing the danger of P to Kt 5, guards against it.

8 Kt to K B 3	8 Kt to Q B 3
9 P to Kt 5	9 B to R 4 ch
10 Q Kt to Q 2	10 B takes Kt ch
11 Q takes B	11 Kt to K 4
12 Kt takes Kt	

The second player sees too late that White can capture the Kt, and if he should capture it, he would lose the Rook. By doing so, therefore, he plays Kt to Kt 5, with the intention of taking the Kt next move with Kt, thus saving the exchange.

12 Kt to Kt 5

13 Kt takes Kt

White spoils this most ingenious combination.

13 B takes Kt

14 Castles	14 Q to K B 3
15 P to K R 3	15 B to Q 2
16 B to Q Kt 4	

In order to attack the Queen next move at B 3.

16 Q to K Kt 3

17 Q to K 3	17 Q R to K sq

Mr. Todd calls this a splendid move. The temptation to capture the Q R P he could hardly repress; but seeing the danger of losing his own K R P, stands firm, and moves—

18 P to Q R 3	18 K to R sq

Black here again gives White a second chance of capturing the R P, but Mr. Todd, with the coolness of a great master, takes a drink of ice water, and moves—

19 P to Q R 4	19 R to K 4
20 P to K B 4	20 K R to K sq

Black is bound to force something, at all hazards.

21 P takes R	21 R takes P
22 B takes K B P	22 Q to Kt 4

White, seeing his Queen attacked, now captures the so long undefended Q R P, threatening Black with a tremendous check next move, should he capture the K R P.

23 Q takes Q R P	23 B takes K R P

"By the hokey pokey, you're mated in two moves," exclaimed Mr. Todd, and proceeded with—

24 Q to Kt 8 ch	24 K to R 2
25 B to K Kt 8, mate; but Black coolly moved—	
	25 K to Kt 3

"Can you get out there?" asked the astonished player. "I thought my Bishop attacked that square;

had I only checked you with my Queen, you would never have got out of that corner;" but seeing the danger of his own King, he played—

26 R to B 2	26 Q to K 2
27 P takes B	27 R to Kt 4 ch
28 K to R 2	28 Q to K 4 ch
29 K to R sq	29 Q to K Kt 6

Not seeing that the capture of Q R would force a mate in a few moves, moves thus, and calls it a stroke of power, from which White cannot recover; but Mr. Todd, with the same coolness that he has shown through the whole game, moved—

30 Q to K 8 ch

Black, after studying for some time, remarks that he has no move to make, whereupon White announces mate.

During an Easter visit to Berlin Herr Anderssen played a short match with Herr Zukertort, which resulted in the victory of the latter. All the games appear in the April number of the *Berliner Schachzeitung*, which also contains some valuable and interesting analyses of the Ruy Lopez Opening by Herr Anderssen.

The *Leipsic Schachzeitung*, as usual, gives us a great number of really excellent problems and games, the latter profusely illustrated by diagrams; and the June number contains a capital story, entitled "A Game of Chess."

The Vienna Tournament has resulted in the prizes being awarded as follows:—First prize, Herr Feyerfeil; second, Herr Pokay; and third, Herr Von Discart.

We are glad to learn that Mr. Staunton has recovered from his late severe illness.

The annual meeting of the Counties Chess Association will be held at Malvern during the week commencing Monday 7th August next, under the Presidency of Lord Lyttleton. The following prizes in books, plate, &c., will be offered for competition:—

Class I.—Open to all Provincial Amateurs on becoming Members of the Association, by a subscription of 10s 6d. All competitors in this class must pay, in addition to their subscription as Members, a sum of 10s 6d towards a Challenge Cup Fund, and the Cup will be given to the player who first wins three times (not necessarily in succession) the first prize in this division. The first prize will be of the value of £6; the second £3, if not less than six entries; the third £2, if not less than nine entries. Time limit—fifteen moves to the hour.

Class II.—First prize will be of the value of £3; the second £2, if not less than six entries; the third £1, if not less than nine entries.

Class III.—Open to ladies on becoming Members of the Association by a subscription of 10s 6d. First prize £3; other prizes according to the number of entries.

No prize will be given in any class in which there are not at least four entries.

Intending competitors must send in their names on or before 31st July 1871 to B. W. Fisher, Esq., Bredon House, Malvern; and their subscriptions to the Treasurer, Rev. A. B. Skipworth, Bilsdale Vicarage, Northallerton.

The Problem Tournament will be open to any amateur on payment of an entrance fee of 2s 6d.

The first prize, value £2 if at least six enter, and three other prizes if there are a sufficient number of entries.

Each competitor must send three problems, ordinary mates in two, three or four moves, nowhere previously published, printed or neatly drawn upon diagrams, accompanied with solutions, and with the competitor's full name and address.

Each competitor to send in at least one problem and entrance fee on or before 1st August, and the remainder by the 1st September, to the Rev. A. B. Skipworth, Bilsdale, Northallerton; and any competitor may send in one additional problem if he wishes, that may take the place of any one of his that may be found faulty.

J. Burt, West Park, Clifton, Bristol,
B. W. Fisher, Bredon House, Malvern, } *Hon. Secretaries.*
S. G. Kempson, New Street, Birmingham.
Rev. A. B. Skipworth; Bilsdale Vicarage, Northallerton, *Hon. Treasurer.*

CITY OF LONDON & WESTMINSTER CHESS CLUB TOURNAMENT.

The event of the month has been the match (annual, we hope) between the City of London and the Westminster Chess Clubs, which took place at the rooms of the latter, on Friday the 23rd ultimo. Twenty players from the one Club were to play against twenty players of the other. Tickets to Chess players were freely given, and this resulted in the largest assembly of Chess players we have ever witnessed. The captain

of the Westminster was unavoidably absent, and accordingly the pairing of the players, nineteen on each side, was left to Mr. Blackburne, who accomplished the task in as fair a manner as it was possible to do. The result gave a victory to the City of London by 10 to 5, and 4 draws. The Westminster won last year, so that the match stands game and game. We congratulate the City of London Club on this result. If ever a Club deserved success the City does. If energy, liberality, and an enthusiastic love of the game is to have its reward, the City is entitled to it. Of the shortcomings of the vanquished it is invidious to speak; but a Club numbering amongst its members Messrs. Boden, Barnes, MacDonnell, Duffy, Belaieff, Burden, Blumberg, De Vere, Wayte, Wormald and Wilson, and who does not produce any one of these on such an occasion, deserves to be beaten. There are many reasons why some of these gentlemen could not play, but we are curious to know why Mr. De Vere (who was present during the whole evening), Mr. MacDonnell (who is not generally backward in the fray), and Mr. Boden did not venture to join issue with their opponents. Surely the men who have acquired a world-wide reputation, need not fear the loss of that reputation because they are beaten in a single game; yet we cannot but construe the non-appearance of these gentlemen as an acknowledgment that they abandon their position as champions, and live in future on their past reputation. We are sorry for it, but it is always well to recognize facts. Other old faces we were glad to see. Mr. Lowe played a capital game, full of interest. Mr. Medley made a good fight against one of our strongest players, Mr. Potter, who is we fancy destined to become the English champion. Mr. F. H. Lewis played a very interesting game, as he generally does. Mr. Mocatta and Mr. Hunt, although the latter ought we think to have won his game, also played well. Mr. Hewitt made a strong fight, but Mr. Argall, his opponent, was too slow for pleasure. The two Clubs make their games as free from rules as possible, but if six hours is to be taken for a single game, we fear we shall have to introduce a time limit. Messrs. Lawrence and Marett also had very slow opponents; whilst Dr. Wiell and Mr. Frankenstein played the fastest match game on record,—56 moves on each side within the hour. We do not commend this style, but we should like to see the slow and fast players find the happy medium. The cheery Mr. Rudderforth played with his board out of position, and pointed out with great glee what for the moment he thought was the same blunder on the part of another player, who had his board right. Herren Lowenthal and Horwitz were present, and took great interest in the proceedings, and the latter gave us two beautiful endings, which we trust will appear in our pages in due course. We confess it does give us pleasure to see men like St. Amant, Herr Horwitz and Mr. Lowe taking an interest in the fight of the younger lovers of the game. Another of our old champions, Mr. Mongredien, was present in spirit although not in body on this occasion, to his great regret. The whole proceedings passed off with great unanimity, and appeared to give the greatest satisfaction to all parties. We give in this number the whole of the nineteen games played.

Obituary.

CHRISTOPHER IDLE.

ANOTHER old worthy has passed away. On Whit Sunday, 28th May, died, after a short illness, full of years but full of spirits up to the last, Christopher Idle, a well known contributor to the sporting magazines and reviews. He was the author of "Hints on Sporting and Fishing," and in days gone by was editor of *The Field.* In the Whist world Mr. Idle received his education at Graham's, of which he was a member for many years; and he graduated at the Portland. He then proceeded to test his strength with the giants on the Continent; and he thus acquired a good general idea of continental play. On this subject he was supposed by many to know more than any other man in the country. We are not of this opinion, but whenever any discussion arose as to the skill and style of the one country as against the other, Mr. Idle was generally referred to as the most competent man to settle the point at issue. For many years Mr. Idle, although not a politician, spent his days at the Reform Club, and he was esteemed one of our best Ecarté players. The Whist at the Reform is indifferent, and it is no great credit to be one of their best Whist players. The Reform politicians are, we suppose, too much engrossed with the cares of State to play Whist, but any way their style is bad. Mr. Idle was chatty and communicative. Like all good-natured old men he was fond of talking of old times, of the fun and frolic he had with Jack Mytton; he told stories with a gusto and raciness uncommon in these days. He was not a man of means, and the few guineas he latterly earned by literature were welcome additions to his income. He had it in contemplation to write on a subject which we had suggested to him,—the difference between French and English Whist,—and this he began, but we believe never finished. He was an amusing writer, never very deep, but always kind-hearted; and in all his relations in life he was a true gentleman.

On the 12th June, at 17 Bedford Place, Russell Square, Hester Margaret, youngest daughter of the late General Sir William Pringle, K.C.B., and wife of Dr. Waller Lewis, Physician to Her Majesty's Post Office.

PROBLEMS.

PROBLEM No. XIV.—By J. W. ABBOTT.

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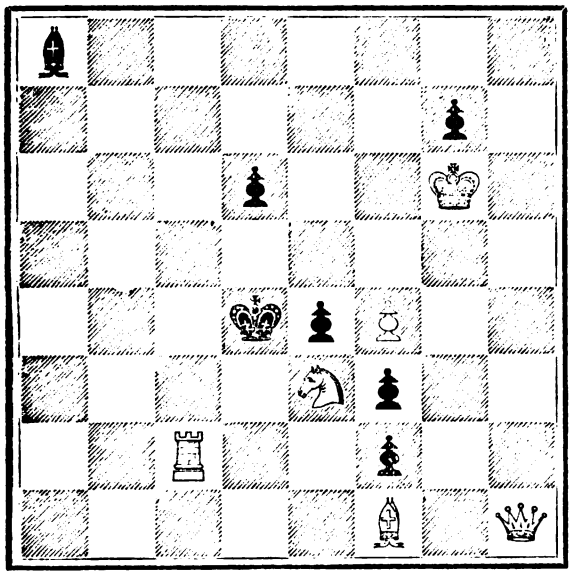

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. XV.—By J. MINCKWITZ
(Editor of the Leipsic Schachzeitung).

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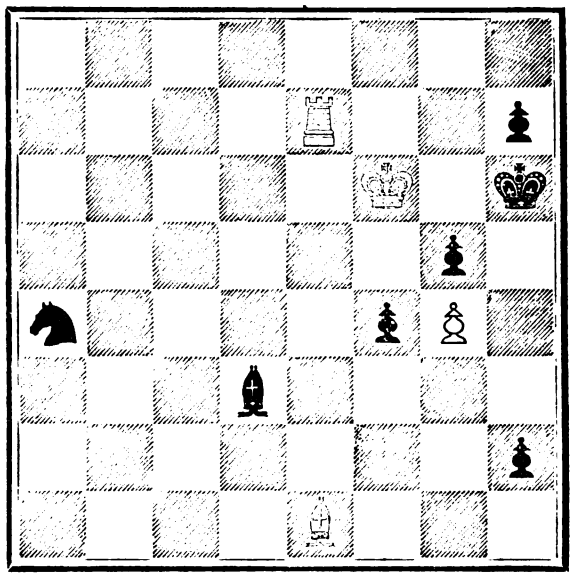

WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

PROBLEM No. XVI.—By F. C. COLLINS.

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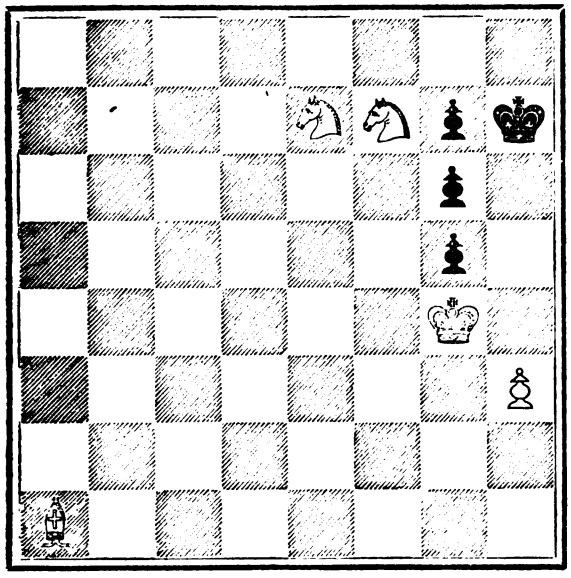

WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

PROBLEM No. XVII.—By B. HORWITZ.

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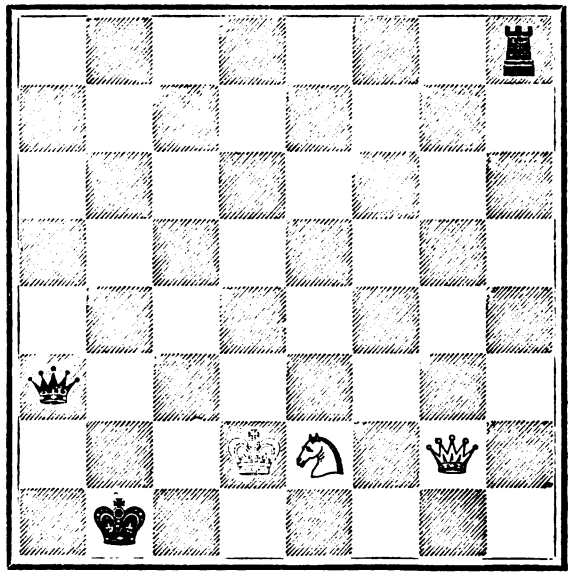


WHITE.

White to play and win.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEMS IN THE MAY NUMBER.

No. I.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 B to Q R 4	1 P to R 3
2 B to Q sq	2 K to Kt 4
3 B to Q Kt 3	3 K takes B
4 K to B 5	4 P moves
5 Kt to Q 6	5 P moves
6 Kt mates	

No. II.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 Q to Q B 6	1 R to R 2 ch
2 B takes R	2 Aught
3 Mates accordingly	

No. III.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 R to Q B 6	1 R takes R (a)
2 B to K B 4 ch	2 Anything
3 Q mates.	

(a) Black has other defences, but none to prolong the mate beyond the three moves.

No. IV.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 Q to K 4	1 P takes R
2 Q takes P at Q 5 ch	2 Aught
3 Mates accordingly	

The following Games were played in the Match between the City of London and the Westminster Chess Clubs :—

GAME XVII.

KING'S BISHOP'S OPENING.

White. Mr. M. Marks.	Black. Mr. Gossip.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 B to Q B 4	2 K Kt to B 3
3 Q Kt to B 3	3 B to Q Kt 5
4 P to Q 3 (a)	4 P to Q 4
5 P takes P	5 Kt takes P
6 B to Q 2	6 B to K 3
7 K Kt to K 2 (b)	7 Castles
8 Castles	8 B takes Kt
9 Kt takes B (c)	9 Kt takes Kt
10 B takes Kt	10 B takes B
11 P takes B	11 Kt to B 3
12 Q takes Q	12 Q R takes Q
13 K R to K sq	13 K R to K sq
14 Q R to Q sq	14 Kt to Q 5
15 B takes Kt	15 P takes B
16 K to B sq	16 P to Q B 4
17 P to Q R 4	17 K to B sq
18 R takes R ch	18 R takes R
19 R to Q 3	19 R to K 3
20 P to R 5	20 R to Q R 3
21 R to Q B 3 (d)	21 K to K 2
22 K to K 2	22 K to Q 3
23 K to Q 3	23 P to Q Kt 3 (e)
24 P to Q B 3	24 P takes B P
25 K takes P	25 R takes P
26 R takes R	26 P takes R
27 K to Q 2	27 P to R 5 (f)
28 P to B 4	28 P to B 4
29 K to B 3	29 K to B 3
30 P to K R 3	30 P to K R 4
31 K to Q 3	31 K to Kt 3
32 K to B 2	32 P to R 3 (g)
33 P to K Kt 3	33 K to R 4
34 K to B 3	34 P to R 6
35 P takes P	35 K to R 5
36 K to Kt 2	36 P to R 5
37 P takes P	37 P to Kt 3
38 K to R 2	38 K to R 4
39 K to Kt 3	39 K to Kt 3
40 K to B 3	40 P to R 4
41 P to R 4	41 K to B 3
42 K to Q 3	42 K to Q 3
43 K to K 3	43 K to K 2
44 K to B 3	44 K to B sq
45 K to Kt 3	45 K to Kt 2
46 K to Kt 2	46 K to R 3
47 K to R 2	47 K to R 2
48 P to R 5	48 P takes P
49 P to R 4	

Drawn.

(a) This is the Ruy Lopez Opening, with the positions reversed.

(b) White's play is perfectly sound here, but the result is a wholesale exchange of pieces, which leaves the game very dry and featureless. Q Kt to K 4 might have been tried here without danger.

(c) White might have captured Bishop with Pawn, and afterwards moved up P to K B 4 with safety.

(d) Very weak; nothing is gained by advancing the Rook's pawn, which monopolises the whole energy of the Rook in defending him.

(e) This manœuvre might have been tried at least as advantageously before the Kings were brought up.

(f) Here Black should have played his King into the centre of the board at once. White's next move entirely prevents him.

(g) The end game is indifferently conducted on both sides. The proper move for Black at this point is—32 P to K R 5, by which he evidently secures for himself two spare moves with his Pawns more than his adversary. These spare moves must have given him the opposition and the game.

GAME XVIII.

CENTRE GAMBIT.

White. Mr. Burd.	Black. Mr. A. B. Baxter.
1 P to K 4	1 P to Q 4
2 P to K 5 (a)	2 P to K 3
3 K Kt to K B 3	3 K B to Q B 4 (b)
4 P to Q 4	4 B to Q Kt 3
5 P to K R 3	5 K Kt to K 2
6 Q B to K Kt 5	6 P to Q B 4
7 P to Q B 3	7 P takes P
8 P takes P	8 Q Kt to Q B 3
9 P to Q R 3	9 Q to Q 2
10 Q to Q R 4 (c)	10 K Kt to K B 4
11 Q B to K 3	11 Castles
12 K B to Q Kt 5	12 P to Q R 3
13 K B to Q 3	13 Q Kt takes K P
14 Q to Q sq	14 Q Kt takes K Kt ch
15 Q takes Kt	15 B takes Q P
16 Q Kt to Q B 3	16 B takes B
17 P takes B	17 Kt to K 2
18 Q R to Q sq	18 P to K B 4 (d)
19 P to K Kt 4	19 P takes P
20 B takes P ch	20 K takes B
21 Q takes R	21 P to K Kt 6
22 Q to K B 3	22 Kt to B 4
23 P to K 4	23 Kt to R 3
24 P takes P	24 P takes P
25 R takes P (e)	25 Q to K 2 ch
26 Q to K 4 ch	26 Q takes Q
27 Kt takes Q	27 P to K Kt 7
28 R to K Kt sq	28 P to Q Kt 4
29 R to Q 8	29 B to Q Kt 2
30 R takes R	30 B takes R
31 Kt to Q B 5	31 P to R 4
32 K to K B 2	32 Kt to B 4
33 R to Q sq	33 Kt to R 5
34 K to Kt 3	34 Kt to B 4 ch
35 K to B 2	35 Kt to R 5
36 K to Kt 3	36 P to K Kt 4
37 Kt to K 6	37 K to Kt 3
38 Kt to Q 4	38 B to K 5
39 K to Kt 4	39 B to Q 6
40 R to K sq	40 B to K B 8
41 R to K 6 ch	41 K to Kt 2
42 R to K 7 ch	42 K to K B sq
43 R to K 5	43 P Queens ch
	And wins.

(a) This move has long since been discountenanced in positions of this kind, as throwing the advantage into the hands of second player. The Pawn should have taken Pawn, with the better game.

(b) P to Q B 4 is the proper move, and gives Black the advantage.

(c) The opening is very poorly played. White's fifth, ninth and tenth moves are useless. His twelfth and thirteenth lose him not only time, but material also.

(d) Black's turn for ill play now begins. In a few moves he loses all his advantage.

(e) White should have seized the advanced Pawn, and at move 26 he should have played K to Q 2. The error of neglecting the advanced Pawn is fatal.

GAME XIX.

HAMPE OPENING.

White. Mr. Ensor.	Black. Mr. Blackburne.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to Q B 3	2 Kt to K B 3
3 B to Q B 4	3 B to Q Kt 5
4 P to Q 3	4 Castles
5 Kt to K B 3	5 P to Q 3
6 B to K Kt 5	6 Kt to Q B 3
7 Castles	7 B takes Kt
8 P takes B	8 Kt to K 2
9 B takes Kt	9 P takes B
10 P to Q 4	10 Kt to K Kt 3
11 Kt to K R 4 (a)	11 Kt takes Kt
Resigns.	

(a) An unaccountable oversight.

GAME XX.

ALLGAIER GAMBIT.

White. Mr. R. Ormond.	Black. Mr. Rudderforth.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to K B 4	2 P takes P
3 Kt to K B 3	3 P to K Kt 4
4 P to K R 4	4 P to K Kt 5
5 Kt to K 5	5 K Kt to B 3 (a)
6 Kt takes Kt P (b)	6 Kt takes K P (c)
7 Q to B 3 (d)	7 Q to K 2
8 B to K 2	8 Kt to Kt 6
9 R to R 3	9 Kt to B 3
10 P to Q B 3	10 P to Q 3
11 P to Q 4 (e)	11 Kt takes B
12 Kt to B 6 ch	12 Q takes Kt
13 Q takes Kt ch	13 B to K 2
14 P to K Kt 4	14 P to B 6
15 Q to K B 2	15 B takes P
16 R to R 2	16 Castles Q R
17 B to K 3	17 Q to K 3
18 Kt to Q 2	18 P to K B 4
19 Castles	19 Q takes P
20 Kt to Kt sq	20 P to Kt 3
21 R to Q 2	21 Kt to R 4
22 R to Q sq	22 P to B 5
23 B takes P	23 Kt to Kt 6 ch
24 K to B 2	24 B to B 4 ch
	And wins.

(a) This once popular defence is now generally discarded.

(b) 6 B to Q B 4 is better, and gives a good attack.

(c) 6 P to Q 4 is good play for Black.

(d) Very bad, and the source of speedy woe. The opening ought to proceed thus :—

7 P to Q 3	7 Kt to Kt 6
8 B takes K B P	8 Kt takes R
9 Q to K 2 ch	9 Q to K 2
10 Kt to B 6 ch	10 K to K sq
11 B takes Q B P ch	11 K takes B
12 Kt to Q 5 check, afterwards taking the Queen.	

The issue of this interesting variation is disputed. Some hold that Black can extricate the Knight, and that his pieces more than counterbalance White's Queen: others maintain a different view.

(e) Losing a piece and the game. The only move was to take Knight with Rook.

GAME XXI.

FRENCH GAME.

Black. Mr. Lawrence.	White. Mr. Cooper.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 3
2 P to K B 4	2 P to Q 4
3 Q to K B 3	3 K Kt to B 3
4 P to K 5	4 K Kt to Q 2
5 K Kt to R 3	5 K B to Q 2
6 P to Q 4	6 P to Q B 4
7 P to Q B 3	7 Q to Q Kt 3
8 P takes P	8 K B takes P
9 K Kt to K B 2	9 Q Kt to B 3
10 P to Q Kt 4	10 K B to K 2
11 P to Q R 4	11 Castles
12 K B to Q 3	12 P to Q 5
13 Q to K B 3	13 P to K Kt 3
14 Castles	14 P takes P
15 Kt takes P	15 Q takes Kt P
16 K Kt to K 4	16 K Kt to Q B 4
17 K B to Q B 2	17 P to K B 4
18 R to Q Kt sq	18 Q to Q B 5
19 K Kt takes K Kt	19 K B takes Kt ch
20 K to K R sq	20 Q takes R mate

GAME XXII.

GIUOCO PIANO.

White. Mr. FRANKENSTEIN.	Black. Mr. WEIL.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to Q B 3
3 B to B 4	3 B to B 4
4 P to Q B 3	4 P to Q 3
5 P to K R 3	5 B to Kt 3
6 P to Q Kt 4	6 Kt to K B 3
7 P to Q 3	7 P to Q R 3
8 P to Q R 4	8 B to Q 2
9 Q Kt to Q 2	9 Q to K 2
10 Kt to R 2	10 B to K 3 (a)
11 B takes B	11 P takes B
12 Q Kt to K B 3	12 Castles K R
13 Castles	13 Kt to Q sq
14 B to R 3	14 Q to B 2
15 Q to Kt 3	15 P to K R 3
16 P to Q B 4	16 Kt to K R 4
17 P to Q B 5	17 B to R 2
18 P to Q Kt 5	18 B to Kt sq
19 P to Q Kt 6	19 Q to Q 2
20 P to Q R 5	20 P to Q B 3
21 P takes P	21 B takes P
22 B to Kt 2	22 Kt to B 2
23 Kt to Kt 4	23 Kt to B 5
24 Q Kt takes P (b)	24 B takes Kt
25 Kt takes B	25 Kt takes Kt
26 B takes Kt	26 Q takes P
27 R takes Q	27 Kt takes Q
28 B to Kt 3	28 Kt to B 5
29 K R to Q sq	29 Kt to K 7 ch
30 K to R 2	30 Kt takes B
31 K takes Kt	31 Q R to Q sq
32 P to K B 3	32 K to B 2
33 K to B 2	33 K to K 2
34 K to K 3	34 P to K 4
35 P to K Kt 3	35 R takes R
36 R takes R	36 R to B 3
37 P to B 4	37 R to Q 3
38 R to Q 3	38 K to K 3
39 R takes R	39 K takes R
40 K to Q 3	40 P to K R 4
41 K to K B 4 (c)	41 P to R 5
42 P takes R ch	42 K takes P
43 P takes P	43 K takes P
44 K to B 5	44 K to Q 4
45 P to R 5	45 K to K 3
46 K to Q 4	46 K to Q 3
47 K to K 4	47 P to B 4
48 P to R 4	48 K to B 3
49 K to K 5	49 P to B 5
50 K to Q 4	50 K to Kt 4
51 K to Q B 3	51 B to Q B 4
52 K to B 2	52 K to Kt 5
53 K to Kt 2	53 K takes P
54 K to R 3	54 K to Kt 4
55 P to R 6	55 P takes P
56 P to R 5	

White Resigns.

(a) Weak, allowing White to develope his game rapidly.

(b) Badly played. B should take P

(c) This ill-considered move deservedly loses White the game. P to K R 4 would in all probability have won it.

GAME XXIII.

QUEEN'S BISHOP'S PAWN OPENING.

White. Mr. MARETT.	Black. Mr. KEATS.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 K Kt to K B 3	2 Q Kt to Q B 3
3 P to Q B 3	3 K B to K 2 (a)
4 P to Q 4	4 K P takes P
5 Q B P takes P	5 P to Q 4
6 P to K 5	6 K B to Q Kt 5 ch
7 Q B to Q 2	7 B takes B ch
8 Q Kt takes B (b)	8 Q B to K Kt 5
9 Q to Q Kt 3	9 K Kt to K 2
10 K B to Q 3	10 Castles
11 Castles K R	11 K to K R sq
12 Q to Q B 3 (c)	12 P to K B 3
13 Q R to Q B sq	13 Q R to Q B sq
14 P to K R 3	14 B to K B 4
15 K R to K sq	15 K B P takes P
16 B takes B	16 Kt takes B
17 Q P takes P	17 P to Q 5
18 Q to Q B 5	18 Q to K 2
19 Kt to Q Kt 3	19 K R to K sq
20 Q takes Q	20 R takes Q

GAME XXIII.—*continued.*

White. Mr. MARETT.	Black. Mr. KEATS.
21 P to K Kt 4	21 Kt to K R 3
22 Q Kt takes Q P	22 Kt to Q Kt 5
23 R to K 3	23 Kt to Q 4
24 R to Q Kt 3	24 P to Q B 3
25 R to K sq	25 P to K Kt 3
26 P to K 6	26 Kt to K B 5
27 K to K R 2	27 P to Q B 4
28 Kt to Q Kt 5	28 R takes P
29 Kt takes Q R P	29 R takes R
30 K Kt takes K R	30 R to Q B 2
31 Kt to Q Kt 5	31 R to Q 2
32 Kt to K B 3	32 Kt to K B 2
33 Kt to Q B 3	33 Kt to Q 6
34 Kt to K 4	34 K to K Kt 2
35 K to K Kt 3	35 Kt to Q sq
36 R to Q Kt 5	36 Kt to K 3
37 Kt from K 4 to K Kt 5	37 Kt from K 3 to K B 5
38 Kt to K 4	38 Kt to K 7 ch

After many more moves the game was abandoned as drawn, White having Kt and three Pawns, Black having Kt and two Pawns.

(a) This is by no means a commendable defence.

(b) In similar positions we prefer as a rule to retake with Queen.

(c) This looks like lost time.

GAME XXIV.

GIUOCO PIANO.

White. Mr. LOWE.	Black. Mr. COUSIN.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to Q B 3
3 B to Q B 4	3 B to Q B 4
4 P to Q 3	4 P to Q 3
5 Q B to K 3	5 K B to Kt 3 (a)
6 Q Kt to B 3	6 K Kt to K 2
7 P to Q 4	7 Q B to Kt 5 (b)
8 B takes P ch	8 K takes B
9 Kt to Kt 5 ch	9 K to K sq
10 Q takes B	10 Q to Q 2 (c)
11 Q takes Q ch	11 K takes Q
12 P takes P	12 Kt takes P
13 B takes B	13 R P takes B
14 P to K B 4 (d)	14 Q Kt to B 3
15 P to K B 5	15 R to Q R 4
16 Castles Q side	16 P to K Kt 3 (e)
17 P to K Kt 4	17 P to K R 4
18 P to K R 3	18 R to K Kt sq
19 Kt to K R 7	19 R to K R sq
20 Kt to K B 6 ch	20 K to Q sq
21 Q Kt to Q 5 (f)	21 Kt to K 4
22 Kt takes K Kt	22 K takes Kt
23 P to Kt 5	23 P takes P
24 P takes P	24 Kt to K B 6
25 Kt to Q 5 ch	25 K to Q 2
26 P to K Kt 6	26 R takes Q R P
27 K to Kt sq (g)	27 K R to Q R sq
28 P to Q Kt 3	28 K R to Q R 4
29 P to K Kt 7	29 R to Q R 8 ch
30 K to Kt 2	30 R to Q R 7 ch
31 K to B 3	31 R to Q B 4 ch
32 K to Kt 4	32 Kt to K 4
33 P to Q B 4	33 R to Q B 7
34 Kt to Q B 3	34 R to Q R 4
35 Kt to Q R 4	35 K to K 2
36 P Queens	36 P to B 4 ch
37 K moves	

And White wins.

(a) The best players do not now retreat this Bishop in similar positions. If it is left on Q B 4 time is saved, and the first player by taking it only opens the Queen's file for Black.

(b) A serious error.

(c) 10 P takes P, with the view of winning the piece, would have been very hazardous, on account of the reply—11 Kt to K 6, followed by Kt to Q 5, and threatening the capture of Black's K Kt P.

(d) The advance of these Pawns is rather premature.

(e) The worst possible line of defence, ensuring at least one passed Pawn for White. Kt to Q sq, followed by P to K R 3 and Kt to K B 2, looks more promising.

(f) All this is very good on the part of Mr. Lowe.

(g) By this move the first player gives himself much unnecessary trouble. P to Q B 3 wins at once.

GAME XXV.

VIENNA OPENING.

White. Mr. ARGALL.	Black. Mr. HEWITT.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to Q B 3	2 Kt to Q B 3
3 B to Q B 4	3 Kt to K B 3
4 Kt to K B 3	4 B to Q B 4
5 Castles	5 P to Q 3
6 P to K R 3	6 Kt to Q R 4
7 Q to K 2	7 Kt takes K B
8 Q takes Kt	8 P to Q R 3
9 P to Q 4	9 P to Q Kt 4
10 Q to Q 3	10 K P takes P
11 K Kt takes P	11 B to Q Kt 2
12 K Kt tks Q Kt P (a)	12 Castles
13 K Kt to Q 4	13 P to Q R 4
14 K R to K sq	14 Kt to Q 2
15 Q B to K 3	15 Kt to K 4
16 Q to Q sq	16 Kt to Q B 5
17 B to Q B sq	17 Q to K B 3
18 Kt to K B 3	18 B to Q Kt 5
19 Q to Q 3	19 Kt to K 4
20 Kt takes Kt	20 Q takes Kt
21 P to K B 4	21 Q to Q sq
22 P to Q R 3	22 B takes Kt
23 P takes B	23 Q to Q B 3
24 Q to K Kt 3	24 K R to K sq
25 P to K 5 (b)	25 R to K 3 (c)
26 P to K B 5	26 R takes K P
27 R takes R	27 P takes R
28 R to Q Kt sq	28 R to Q sq
29 B to K Kt 5	29 R to Q 2
30 P to K B 6	30 P to K Kt 3
31 P to K R 4	31 P to K R 4
32 Q to K R 3	32 R to Q sq
33 P to Q B 4	33 B to Q B sq
34 Q to K 3	34 Q takes P at Q B 4
35 Q takes K P	35 Q takes Q B P
36 R to Q B sq	

Given up as drawn. (d)

(a) Winning a pawn, but opening up Black's position.

(b) The position on both sides is full of danger.

(c) This move wins a pawn, as Black threatens mate.

(d) This was one of the hardest fought games in the match.

Mr. Blackburne says Mr. Argall has a won game.

GAME XXVI.

HAMPE OPENING.

White. Mr. THOMSON.	Black. Mr. W.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Q Kt to B 3	2 P to Q R 3
3 P to K B 4	3 B to B 4
4 Kt to K B 3	4 P to Q 3
5 B to Q B 4	5 B to K Kt 5
6 P takes P	6 P takes P
7 B takes K B P ch	7 K to B sq
8 Q to K 2	8 Kt to K B 3
9 B to Q 5	9 P to Q B 3
10 B to Q Kt 3	10 P to Q Kt 4
11 P to Q 3	11 Kt to Q 2
12 B to K 3	12 Q to Q Kt 3
13 Kt to Q sq	13 P to Q R 4
14 P to Q B 3	14 P to Q R 5
15 B to Q B 2	15 B takes B
16 Kt takes B	16 P to K R 3
17 Castles	17 B to K 3
18 P to Q 4	18 K to Kt sq
19 K to R sq	19 Kt to K Kt 5
20 Kt to K B 5	20 B to Q B 4
21 Kt to K 7 ch	21 K to R 2
22 K to K Kt 5 ch	22 P takes Kt
23 Q takes Kt	23 P to Q B 4
24 R to K B 3	24 P to K Kt 3
25 R to R 3 ch	25 K to Kt 2
26 Q takes Kt	26 Q R to R 2
27 Kt to K B 5 dble. ch	27 K to B sq
Mates in six moves	

GAME XXVII.

IRREGULAR OPENING.

White. Mr. POTTER.	Black. Mr. MEDLEY.
1 P to Q B 4	1 P to Q B 4
2 Kt to Q B 3	2 Kt to Q B 3
3 P to K 3	3 P to K 3
4 Kt to K B 3	4 Kt to K B 3
5 P to Q R 3	5 P to Q R 3
6 P to Q 4	6 P to Q 4
7 B to K 2 (a)	7 P to Q Kt 3
8 Castles	8 B to Q 3
9 P to Q Kt 3	9 Castles
10 B to Q Kt 2	10 P takes Q P
11 K P takes P	11 B to Q Kt 2
12 P takes P	12 P takes P
13 B to Q 3 (b)	13 R to Q B sq
14 Q Kt to K 2	14 K Kt to K 5 (c)
15 Q Kt to K Kt 3	15 P to K B 4
16 P to Q Kt 4	16 Q to K B 3
17 Q to Q Kt 3	17 K to R sq
18 Q R to Q sq (d)	18 Q Kt to K 2
19 B to Q Kt sq	19 Q Kt to K Kt 3
20 K R to K sq	20 Q Kt to K R 5
21 R to K 2	21 R to Q B 2
22 Q Kt to K B sq	22 K R to Q B sq
23 Q R to K sq	23 R to B 6 (e)
24 B takes R	24 R takes B (f)
25 Q takes R	25 Kt takes Q
26 R to K 8 ch	26 B to K B sq
27 Kt takes Kt	27 Kt takes B
28 R takes Kt	28 K to Kt sq
29 Kt to K B 3	29 B to Q B 3
30 R to Q Kt 8	30 B to Q Kt 4
31 Q R to Q B sq	31 B to Q B 5
32 R to K sq	32 B to Q Kt 4
33 P to Q R 4	33 Q to Q 3 (g)
34 R takes B (ch)	34 K takes R [Kt 5
35 P takes B	35 Q takes P on her
36 P takes P	36 Q to Q R 4
37 R to K 5	37 P to K Kt 3
38 Kt to K Kt 5	38 Q takes P
39 Kt takes P ch	39 K to B 2
40 Kt to Kt 5 ch	40 K to B 3
41 P to K R 4	41 Q to Q B 5
42 R to K 6 ch	42 K to Kt 2
43 R takes Q Kt P	43 K to R 3
44 R to Q Kt 7	44 K to R 4
45 R to R 7 ch	45 K to Kt 5
46 Kt to R 2 ch	Resigns.

(a) The game is now resolved into the Queen's Gambit Declined. We should however have preferred B to Q 3 at this point.

(b) The advantage of the move has now passed to Black, in consequence of White's seventh move.

(c) Black now takes the initiative.

(d) No advantage is to be got by taking Q P.

(e) Very ingeniously conceived, but apparently overlooking the fact that White can sacrifice the attacked Queen and obtain an ample equivalent both in force and position.

(f) A grave error. Kt takes Kt ch before capturing B would gain B and Pawn for the Rook with a strong attack. Black's play betokens want of practice.

(g) He has no better resource. If he take the proffered Pawn White rejoins with 34 R to Q B sq.

GAME XXVIII.

QUEEN'S BISHOP'S PAWN OPENING.

White. Mr. F. G. JANSSENS.	Black. Mr. MOCATTA.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 K Kt to B 3	2 Q Kt to B 3
3 P to Q B 3	3 K Kt to B 3
4 P to Q 4	4 Kt takes K P
5 P to Q 5	5 B to Q B 4
6 P takes Kt	6 B takes P ch
7 K to K 2	7 Kt P takes P (a)
8 Q to Q R 4	8 P to K B 4
9 Q Kt to Q 2	9 Castles
10 Kt takes Kt	10 P takes Kt
11 Q takes P	11 P to Q 4
12 Q takes K P (b)	12 R to K sq
13 Q takes R ch	13 Q takes Q ch
14 K takes B	14 B to B 4
15 B to K 2	15 B to K 5

GAME XXVIII. *continued.*

White. Mr. F. G. JANSSENS.	Black. Mr. MOCATTA.
16 K R to K sq	16 Q to K B sq
17 B to K 3	17 R to K sq
18 P to Q Kt 4	18 B takes Kt
19 B takes B	19 Q to B 3
20 B to Kt 5	20 R takes R
21 B takes Q	21 R takes R
22 B to Q 8	22 R takes P ch
23 K to K 3	23 R to R 6
24 K to Q 3	24 P to Q R 4
25 P to Kt 5 (c)	25 P takes P
26 B to K 7	26 P to Kt 5
27 B takes P ch	27 K to R sq
28 K to B 4	28 R takes P ch
29 K to Kt 5	29 R to K 6
30 B to B 5	30 R to K 4
31 K to B 6	31 R to R 4
32 P to R 3	32 R to Kt 4
33 P to R 4	33 R to Kt 6
34 B to B 3	34 P to Kt 6
35 B to Q 4	35 R to Kt 3 ch
36 K takes P	36 P to R 5
37 B to Kt 2	37 R to Q R 3
38 K to Kt 7	38 R to Q 3
39 B to K 4	39 R to Q 7
40 B to B 3	40 R to K 7
41 B to Q 5	41 R to Q B 7
42 B to K 5	42 R to B 4 (d)
Resigns.	

(a) 7 P to Q 4 is now generally preferred, but we are by no means satisfied that it is really stronger than the move in the text.

(b) Surely an unnecessary sacrifice. Why not retire the Queen to Q R 4?

(c) The advance of this Pawn is an illustration of perverted ingenuity. He ought to have taken Pawn with Pawn.

(d) Black plays the whole of this end game with commendable steadiness and patience.

GAME XXIX.

QUEEN'S BISHOP'S PAWN OPENING.

White. Mr. ATTOUN.	Black. Mr. BEARDSALL.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 K Kt to B 3	2 Q Kt to B 3
3 P to Q B 3	3 P to Q 3
4 B to K 2	4 B to K 2
5 Castles	5 Kt to K B 3
6 P to K R 3	6 P to K R 3
7 P to Q Kt 4	7 P to Q R 3
8 P to Q R 3	8 B to K 3
9 P to Q 4	9 P takes P
10 P takes P	10 P to Q 4
11 P to K 5	11 Kt to R 2
12 Q Kt to Q 2	12 Castles
13 Kt to R 3	13 Q Kt takes Q P
14 B to K Kt 4	14 B takes B
15 Q takes B	15 Kt to K 3
16 Q Kt to B 3	16 K to K R sq
17 Q B to Q 2	17 P to Q B 3
18 K R to K sq	18 Q to Q 2
19 Q R to Q sq	19 Q R to K sq
20 Q R to Q B sq	20 P to K B 4
21 Q to K R 5	21 B to K Kt 4
22 B takes B	22 Q Kt takes B
23 Q Kt to K R 4	23 Q to K B 2
24 Q takes Q	24 R takes Q
25 P to K B 4	25 Kt to K 5
26 K Kt to B 3	26 P to K Kt 4
27 P takes P	27 P takes P
28 P to K 6	28 R to B 3
29 Q Kt takes P	29 R takes Kt
30 Kt to Q 4	30 R to B 3
31 R to K B sq	31 R takes R
32 R takes R	32 Kt to B sq
33 P to K 7	33 Kt to Kt 3
34 Kt to K B 5	34 Kt takes P
35 Kt to K R 6	35 K to Kt 2
36 Kt to Kt 4	36 R to K B sq
37 R to K sq	37 Kt to K B 4
38 Kt to K 5	38 Kt to Q 5
39 Kt to Kt 4	39 Kt to Q B 7
40 R to K 2	40 Kt takes R P

After a few more moves White resigns.

GAME XXX.

IRREGULAR OPENING.

Black. Mr. W. FRANKLIN.	White. Mr. MUNDELL.
1 P to K 4	1 P to Q Kt 3
2 P to Q 4	2 B to Kt 2
3 Kt to Q B 3	3 P to K Kt 3
4 P to K B 4	4 P to K 3
5 Kt to K B 3	5 B to Kt 2
6 P to K 5	6 Kt to K 2
7 B to Q 3	7 Castles
8 Castles	8 P to Q 3
9 B to K 3	9 K to R sq
10 Kt to K Kt 5	10 P to K R 3
11 Kt to K B 3	11 Q Kt to B 3
12 P to Q R 3	12 Q to Q 2
13 Q to Q 2	13 K to R 2
14 Q R to Q sq	14 Kt to B 4
15 B takes Kt	15 Kt P takes B
16 Q to K B 2	16 Kt to K 2
17 Q to R 4	17 Kt to Kt 3
18 Q to R 5	18 P to B 3
19 P takes B P	19 B takes P
20 Kt to K 2	20 B takes Kt
21 R takes B	21 R to K Kt sq
22 R to R 3	22 Q to Kt 2
23 Kt to Kt 3	23 P to Q B 4
24 P to Q 5	24 Kt to K 2
25 P takes P	25 P to Q 4
26 P to B 3	26 R to Q sq
27 R to Q 2	27 P to Q 5
28 P takes P	28 B takes P
29 B takes B	29 R takes B
30 R takes R	30 P takes R
31 Q to K 2	31 R to Q B sq
32 Q to Q sq	32 Q to B 3
33 Kt to K 2	33 Q takes P
34 Kt takes P	34 R to Q sq
35 R to Q 3	35 Q to K 5
36 P to R 3	36 Kt to B 3
37 Q to Kt 3	37 R to Q 2 (a)
38 R to Kt 3	38 R to Kt 2
39 R takes R ch	39 K takes R
40 Kt takes Kt	40 Q takes Kt
41 Q to Q B 3 ch	41 Q takes Q
42 P takes Q	42 K to B 3
43 K to Q B 2	43 K to K 3
44 K to K 3	And White resigns.

(a) Why not R takes Kt, winning a piece and forcing Black to draw.

GAME XXXI.

White. Mr. COLE.	Black. Mr. LEWIS.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 3
2 P to Q 4	2 P to Q 4
3 P takes P	3 P takes P
4 Kt to K B 3	4 K B to Q 3
5 Q Kt to B 3	5 P to Q B 3
6 K B to Q 3	6 K Kt to B 3
7 Q B to K 3	7 P to K R 3
8 P to K R 3	8 Q B to K 3
9 Q to Q 2	9 Q Kt to Q 2
10 P to K Kt 3 (a)	10 Q to B 2
11 K Kt to R 4	11 P to K Kt 4
12 Kt to Kt 2 (b)	12 P to Q R 3
13 P to K B 4	13 P takes P
14 P takes P	14 Kt to Q Kt 3 (c)
15 Q to K 2	15 Castles Q side
16 P to K B 5	16 B to Q 2
17 Castles Q R	17 Q R to K sq
18 K R to K B sq	18 K R to K Kt
19 R to K B 3	19 K to Kt
20 Q to Q 2	20 Kt to K 5
21 Q to K 2	21 Kt takes Kt
22 P takes Kt	22 Kt to Q R 5
23 K to Q 2	23 Kt takes P (d)
24 Q to B sq (e)	24 Kt takes R
25 K takes Kt	25 Q to R 4
26 K to K 2	26 P to Q B 4
27 K to B 2	27 P takes P
28 B takes K R P	28 B to Q Kt 4
29 P to K R 4	29 Q takes R P
30 B takes B	30 Q takes P ch
31 B to K 2	31 R takes B ch (f)
Resigns.	

(a) White loses valuable time by such an unmeaning move as this.

(b) Kt to B 5 seems preferable.

(c) Necessary, as White now threatens to push the Pawn on the Bishop.

(d) All this is capitally played by Mr. Lewis.

(e) He dare not take the Knight with King.

(f) The *coup de grace*.

GAME XXXII.

EVANS GAMBIT.

White. Mr. HUMPHREYS.	Black. Mr. SMITH.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 K Kt to B 3	2 Q Kt to B 3
3 B to Q B 4	3 B to Q B 4
4 P to Q Kt 4	4 B takes P
5 P to Q B 3	5 B to B 4
6 Castles	6 Kt to R 4 (a)
7 Kt takes K P	7 Kt takes K B
8 Kt takes Kt	8 B to Kt 3
9 P to Q 4	9 P to Q 3
10 Q B to K B 4	10 B to Q 2
11 R to K sq	11 B to K 3 (b)
12 P to Q 5	12 B to Q 2
13 P to K 5	13 B takes K B P ch
14 K takes B	14 Q to K R 5 ch
15 B to K Kt 3 (c)	15 Q takes Kt
16 P takes Q P ch	16 K to B sq
17 P takes B P	17 Kt to K B 3
18 B to Q 6 ch	18 K to Kt sq
19 Kt to Q R 3	19 Q takes Q P
20 Q takes Q	20 Kt takes Q
21 P to Q B 4	21 Kt to K B 3
22 R to K 7	22 P to K Kt 3
23 P to K R 3	23 B to K 3
24 B to K 5	24 K to Kt 2
25 K to Kt sq	25 P to Q R 3
26 Q R to K B sq	

And wins.

(a) Novel, but not potent.

(b) This lazy Bishop should have marched here at once.

(c) P to K Kt 3 is safe, and saves the piece.

GAME XXXIII.

KNIGHT'S OPENING.

Black. Mr. VANDERVELDE.	White. Mr. SCHLOESSER.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to Q B 3
3 B to Q B 4	3 B to Q B 4
4 P to Q 3	4 P to K R 3
5 Castles	5 Kt to K B 3
6 Kt to Q B 3	6 Castles
7 Kt to Q 2	7 P to Q 3
8 P to K R 3	8 Kt to K R 2
9 Kt to K Kt 3	9 B to K 3
10 B to Q K 3	10 P to Q R 4
11 P to Q B 3	11 P to Q R 5 (a)
12 B takes P	12 Kt to K 2
13 B to Q Kt 3	13 P to Q B 3
14 B to K 3	14 Q to Q Kt 3
15 P to Q 4	15 P takes P
16 P takes P	16 B takes K B
17 P takes K B	17 B takes Q
18 P takes Q	18 B takes Kt
19 P takes B	19 P to Q B 4
20 K R to Q sq	20 K R to Q sq
21 P to Q R 4	21 Kt to Q B 3
22 Kt to K B 5	22 Kt to K 4
23 R takes P	23 Kt takes K B P ch
24 K to R sq	24 Q Kt to K Kt 4
25 P to K 5	25 Kt to K 5
26 R takes R ch	26 R takes R
27 R to K Kt sq	27 K Kt to K Kt 4
28 P to K R 4	28 Kt to K 3
29 Kt takes K R P ch	29 K to R 2
30 Kt takes K B P	30 R to Q 2
31 Kt to K Kt 4 ch	31 K Kt takes Kt
32 P takes Kt	32 K to K Kt 3
33 R to K Kt 4	33 K to K B 4
34 P to K B 3	34 Kt to Q 7
35 K to Kt 2	35 K takes P
36 B takes P	36 R to K B 2
37 B to Q 4 ch	37 K to Q 4
38 B to K 3	38 Kt takes P
39 K to Kt 3	39 Kt to K 4
40 R to K B 4	40 R to K 2
41 P to Q Kt 4	41 Kt to Q B 3
42 B to Q B 5	Resigns

(a) Mr. Schloesser forgets Mr. Lowe's celebrated saying, "Pawns are not picked up in the street."

The end of the game is not played in Mr. Schloesser's best style.

GAME XXXIV.

PHILIDOR'S DEFENCE.

White. Mr. CLARK.	Black. Mr. HUNT.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 B to B 4	2 B to B 4
3 K Kt to B 3	3 P to Q 3
4 P to Q B 3	4 K Kt to B 3
5 P to Q 4	5 P takes P
6 P takes P	6 B to Q Kt 5 ch
7 B to Q 2	7 B takes B ch
8 Q Kt takes B	8 Castles
9 B to Q Kt 3	9 Q to K 2
10 Q to B 2	10 B to K 3
11 P to K 5	11 B takes B
12 Kt takes B (a)	12 P takes P
13 P takes P	13 Q Kt to B 3
14 Q to K B 5	14 Q R to K sq (b)
15 Castles K R	15 Kt takes P
16 Q Kt to Q 2	16 Kt takes Kt ch
17 Kt takes Kt	17 Q to K 3
18 Q to B 2	18 P to Q B 3
19 P to K R 3	19 Kt to Q 4
20 Q R to K sq	20 Q to K Kt 3
21 Q to Q B 4	21 P to K R 3
22 Kt to K 5	22 Q to Q 3
23 P to K B 4	23 R to K 3
24 P to Q R 3	24 K R to K sq
25 Q R to Q sq	25 Q to K 2
26 R to B 3	26 Kt takes P
27 R to Q 7	27 Kt to K 7 ch
28 K to R 2 (c)	28 Q to K Kt 4
29 Kt takes B P	29 Q to K Kt 3
30 Kt to Q 8	30 Q to Q Kt 8
31 Q to Q 8 5	31 R to K 6 (d)
32 Q to Q B 4 ch	32 K R to K 3
33 R takes K Kt P	33 K takes R
34 Kt takes R ch	34 R takes Kt
35 Q to Q B 5	35 Q to K Kt 8 ch (e)
36 Q takes Q	36 Kt takes Q
37 K takes Kt	37 P to Q R 4
38 R to Q 3	38 K to B 3
39 K to B 2	39 P to Q R 5
40 R to K B 3 ch	40 K to Kt 3
41 P to K Kt 4	41 P to Q Kt 4
42 R to K 3	42 R takes R
43 K takes R	43 K to Kt 4
44 K to B 3	44 K to K R 5
45 K to B 4	45 K takes R P
46 P to Kt 5	46 P takes Kt P
47 K takes P	47 K to K Kt 6 (f)
48 K to K B 5	48 K to B 6
49 K to K 5	49 K to K 6
50 K to Q 6	50 K to Q 5
51 K takes B P	51 K to Q B 5
52 K to Kt 6	52 P to Kt 5
53 P takes P	53 K takes P

Drawn.

(a) Q takes B seems stronger.

(b) We prefer K R to Q R, as the Queen's file is open for the Q R.

(c) K to B 2 seems to give white a winning position.

(d) This and the moves that follow on both sides are very pretty.

(e) R to K sq is a better move.

(f) P to B 4 would have made it very difficult for white to draw.

GAME XXXV.

GIUOCO PIANO.

White. Mr. HOON.	Black. Mr. SELIM FRANKLIN.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 K B to Q B 4	2 K B to Q B 4
3 K Kt to K B 3	3 Q Kt to Q B 3
4 P to Q 3	4 P to Q 3
5 Castles	5 K Kt to B 3
6 Q B to K 3	6 K B to Q Kt 3 (a)
7 Q Kt to Q 2 (b)	7 Castles
8 B takes B	8 Q R P takes B
9 P to Q R 3	9 K to R sq
10 P to Q B 3	10 K Kt to K Kt sq
11 P to Q 4	11 Q to K B 3
12 P to Q 5	12 Q Kt to K 2
13 K Kt to K sq	13 Q to K Kt 3 (c)
14 P to K B 4	14 P takes P
15 R takes P	15 K Kt to K R 3
16 B to K 2	16 P to K B 4
17 K Kt to Q 3	17 Q to K B 3
18 Q to K B sq	18 P to K Kt 4
19 R to K B 2	19 Q to K Kt 3
20 P to Q B 4	20 P to K B 5

GAME XXXV.—*continued.*

White. Mr. HOON.	Black. Mr. SELIM FRANKLIN.
21 P to K 5	21 Q B to K Kt 5
22 P to K 6	22 Q Kt to K B 4 (d)
23 B to K B 3	23 Q to K R 4
24 Q to K 2	24 Q Kt to Q 5
25 Q to Q sq	25 B takes B
26 Q Kt takes B	26 Q Kt to K B 4
27 Q Kt to K sq	27 Q to K Kt 3
28 Q Kt to Q B 2	28 Q Kt to K R 5
29 K Kt to K sq	29 K Kt to K B 4
30 Q to Q 3	30 Q to K R 3
31 Q Kt to Q 4	31 K Kt to K 6
32 Q Kt to Q B 2	32 P to K Kt 5 (e)
33 Kt takes Kt	33 P takes Kt
34 R takes R ch	34 R takes R
35 Kt to Q B 2	35 R to K B 7
36 Kt takes P	36 Q to K B 5
37 P to K Kt 3	37 Q to K B 6
38 P takes Kt	38 R to K Kt 7 ch
39 Kt takes R (f)	39 Q takes Q
40 R to K sq (g)	

And White wins.

(a) Many of the best modern players do not retreat the B in this position, but leave it to be taken.

(b) Kt to Q B 3 is better.

(c) Kt to Kt 3, to prevent White playing P to K B 4, is stronger.

(d) We prefer P to Q B 3.

(e) This move is premature, and loses the game.

(f) White plays this part of the game remarkably well, and evidently foresaw the weakness of Black's combination.

(g) The game is now won by White.

GAME XXXVI.

The following game was played at Cardiff, on the occasion of Mr. Blackburne's late visit.

ALLGAIER GAMBIT.

White. MR. BLACKBURNE.	Black. MR. MORTON.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to K B 4	2 P takes P
3 K Kt to B 3	3 P to K Kt 4
4 P to K R 4	4 P to K Kt 5
5 Kt to Kt 5	5 P to K R 3
6 Kt takes K B P	6 K takes Kt
7 B to B 4 ch	7 P to Q 4
8 B takes P ch	8 K to K sq
9 P to Q 4	9 P to B 6 (a)
10 P takes P	10 B to K 2
11 B to K 3	11 B takes R P ch
12 K to Q 2	12 K Kt to B 3
13 Kt to Q B 3	13 P to Q B 3
14 B to Kt 3	14 Kt to R 2
15 P takes P	15 B to K Kt 4
16 P to Q 5	16 B takes B ch
17 K takes B	17 Q to Kt 4 ch
18 K to Q 3	18 B takes P
19 Q to Q 2	19 P to K R 4
20 Q R to K Kt sq	20 Kt to Q 2
21 Q takes Q	21 Kt takes Q
22 K to K 3	22 K R to K B sq (b)
23 R to Kt 3	23 Kt to Q B 4
24 P to K 5	24 Kt takes B
25 R P takes Kt	25 R to K B 6 ch (c)
26 R takes R	26 B takes R
27 R to K Kt sq	27 B to K Kt 5
28 R to K B sq	28 K to K 2 (d)
29 P to Q 6 ch	29 K to K 3
30 Kt to K 4	30 Kt takes Kt
31 K takes Kt	31 R to K R sq
32 R to B 6 ch	32 K to Q 2
33 R to B 7 ch	33 K to Q B sq
34 R to B 7 ch	34 K to Q Kt sq
35 R to K 7	35 P to R 5

Drawn.

(a) It is not unusual to defend the dangerous attack in this form of the Allgaier Gambit by Kt to K 2 and B to Kt 2; but the course selected by Mr. Morton is quite sound. The opening indeed is well played by him.

(b) Black retains his piece, and the blindfold player has no compensating advantage.

(c) This manœuvre loses time, and ends only in transferring the command of the important K B file to the first player. Black should have sought to break up the adverse centre Pawns.

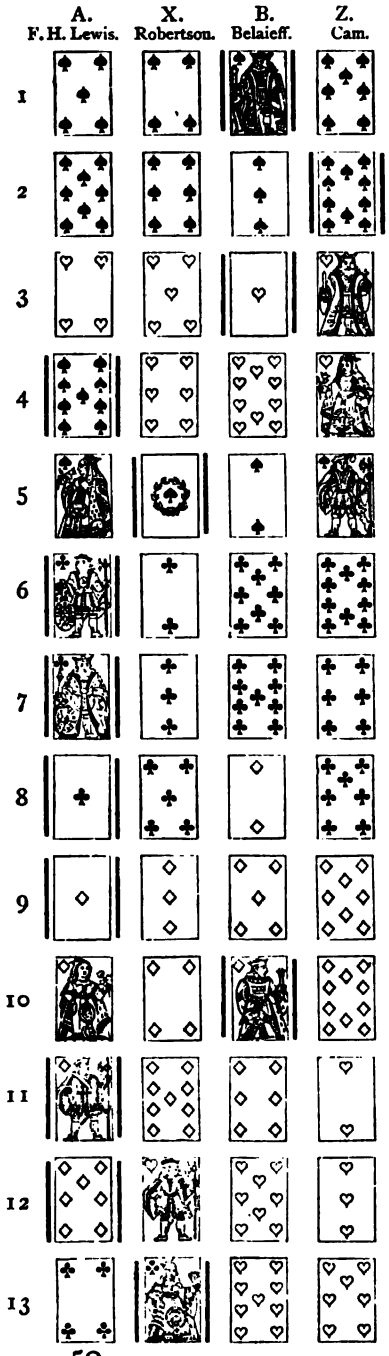
(d) Again an effort ought to have been made for the disruption of the centre Pawns.

WHIST.

A and B play against X and Z. A leads. The card with the double rim wins, and the card below the rimmed card is the next one led.

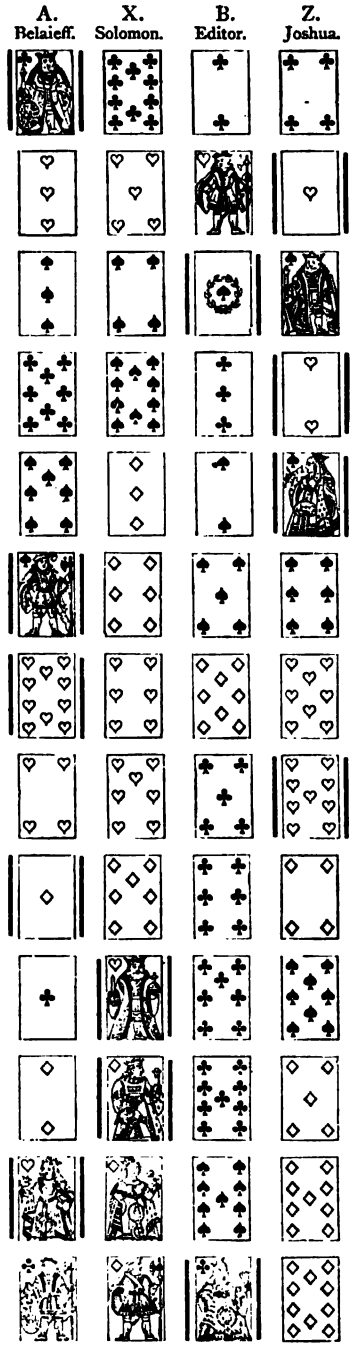
HAND No. 97.

Score—A and B 1. X and Z 3.
Spades trumps. Z turns up S Kv.
A's HAND.—D A, Qn, Kv, 7; C A, Kg, Kv, 4; S Qn, 9, 8, 5; H 4.
Played at the Westminster Chess Club, 22nd February 1871.



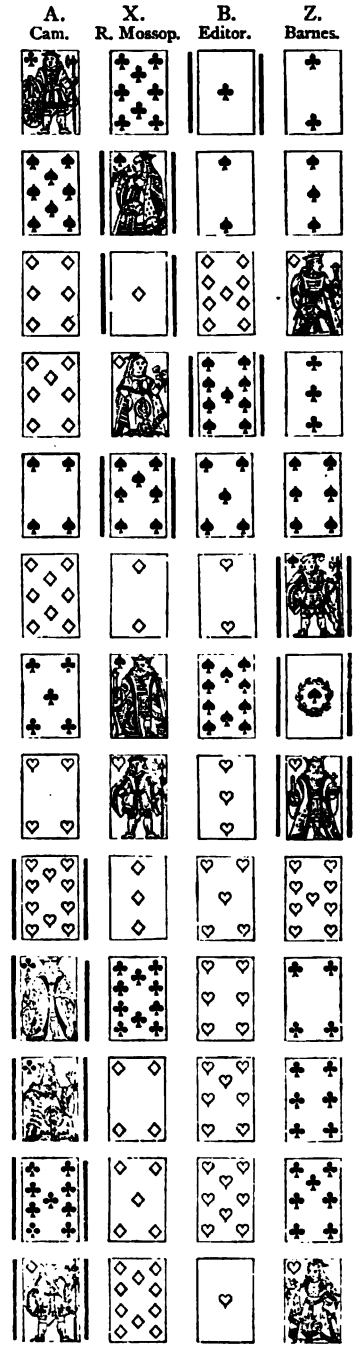
HAND No. 98.

Score—Love all.
Hearts trumps. Z turns up H A.
A's HAND.—D A, 2; H Qn, 10, 4, 3; C A, Kg, Kv, 8; S Kv, 7, 3.
Played at the Westminster Chess Club, April 1871.



HAND No. 99.

Score—A love. X and Z 4.
Spades trumps. Z turns up S 7.
B's HAND.—C A; S 10, 9, 5, 2; D 9; H A, 8, 7, 6, 5, 3, 2.
Played at the Westminster Chess Club, April 1871.



HAND No. 97.

NOTES.—2. The play seems pretty, and in any event can do no harm; but careful analysis should show to A the position of every trump at the time that he plays the 8. 5. Well played. 6. X should have made his best Heart.

HAND No. 98.

NOTES.—7. We do not see the use of passing the 10, Z cannot have the Q.

HAND No. 99.

NOTES.—2. The lead is desperate, justifiable only by the score. 4. We should have over trumped. 8. If B takes the H Kg he must lose the game.

JOTTINGS.

WHIST CRITICS—THE CLASS ROARER.

IN speaking of Whist critics our friend the Roarer comes naturally to the front. When the Roarer was first mentioned in these pages he stood out in bold relief a head and shoulders above his fellows. His voice was high pitched, and he spoke with that positiveness begotten by ignorance that admits of no question. To argue with him was a folly that few ventured upon a second time. He never appealed to reason, and only occasionally to facts. "You ought to have led Spades!" and he dilates on the subject at the top of his voice, never needful of the meek reply, "I had no Spade!" He bursts out, "You ought to have done so and so," and suddenly finishes up by asking, "How many of the suit had you? or how many honours?" and on being informed of the fact, the better sort sometimes admit that "under the circumstances you may have been right." He is quite unconscious that he should not criticise whilst ignorant of the hand, and he is oblivious to the fact that he has admitted that he knew nothing on the subject. Sometimes, indeed, the Roarer transposes the position, and asks first what you had, and then blows you up for not having played differently. Sometimes he says, "You ought to have led Clubs;" and then suddenly turns round and asks, "How many Hearts you had?" On he rushes, like a rhinoceros through a jungle, regardless of all impediments. In days gone by, the Roarers were a species as distinct from the Whist player as the ass from the horse. Things have changed since those days. The Roarer of that day is to the Roarer of this as a hand-bell to Great Tom of Lincoln. The old Roarer was a good-natured, kind-hearted, genial fellow. The Roarer now is querulous, opinionative and ill-tempered. And whereas the old Roarer was a *rara avis;* now, all are Roarers, and it is only the greatest Roarer of all that can be distinguished from the others, as the queen bee is known from the rest of the hive by its enormous dimensions. Our old friend is completely quenched. Instead of rising to the great height of the present generation, he is completely subdued; so much so that he is nearly as quiet as a Whist player should be. The great characteristics of the Roarer class are loudness of voice, ignorance of facts, want of knowledge of the position of the cards, and an entire absence of all book lore. To this may be added a supreme belief in their partner's perspicuity in divining when any player has played a false card. Thus, if the Roarer, second, third or fourth hand, has played an Ace, having the King in his hand, the unfortunate partner is a downright fool not to know who has the King. The Roarers decline to give any information to their partners as to what they possess, and the Chief Roarer contends that the dark game is the best, because, if you let your partner know anything, the opponents know it at the same time, and, as he has two opponents to one partner (we wish we never had but two opponents) it is two to one against the modern style of play. Next to abusing his partners the principal enjoyment of the Roarer is to talk of his bad luck. His losses, we are glad to say, are considerable, and happy is the man who has not had dinned into his ears their extraordinary amount, and the number of rubbers he loses, owing to the want of skill of his partners. The Chief Roarer is not exactly an educated man. He speaks of the "King a trumps" and "Ace a trumps," and at Piquet he insists, with his usual vehemence, that "three Aces are not good, for he called fourteen Jacks." If his great skill is successful, he chuckles, and says, "I done you there." He once abused an unfortunate Italian, with whom he was playing for the first time in his life. The vociferation and gesture were so great that the foreigner thought our friend was swearing. The Italian rose from his seat, bowed politely, and said, "Consider yourself sat upon." We do not know what this meant, but the Roarer was quiet for upwards of ten minutes; and it is to be hoped that an Italian will be retained permanently on the establishment continually to sit upon any Roarer that appears therein. We saw one of this class once make a mistake. Such an occurrence is so uncommon, that we think we may chronicle the fact. The great player had in his hand the Ace of trumps and the best Club. There were two other trumps in, and he had to get both tricks to save the game. The way he tried to do it was to lead the best Club, on which his adversary, strange to say, played a trump. Of course the great man said he played correctly, and, except in print, no one could deny the proposition without the risk of a headache; but, here we may suggest that the easiest way of saving the game was to lead the best trump first. If one of the

adversaries has two trumps he must win the game, whereas if the two trumps are divided the Roarer must save the game. We wish our friend would put up this simple ending. It is too easy for us to give as an example.

A very common ground for abuse is when you lead trumps—"If you had not led trumps we should have won the game." An instance of this occurred the other day. There were four cards left in. It was our lead, and we had three small Diamonds and the 10 of trumps. The best Diamond was to our left, and there was one other Diamond, which might be in our partner's or in the second player's hand. Our partner had turned up the Queen. He might have four trumps. We wanted one trick to save the game, and we led the 10 of trumps. It was taken by the fourth hand with the Knave. The King, Ace of trumps and the thirteenth trump were led out, and we lost the game. In this position we could have saved the game by leading the Diamond, because the fourth player must have trumped his partner's best Diamond, and our partner having one Diamond and three trumps must make his Queen. This is a combination of the cards somewhat difficult to foresee. At Double Dummy the merest tyro could save the game, but our Roaring friends never seem to see that the game is not Double Dummy, and that to master such a position (assuming it to be possible, which we believe it was not) requires Whist of a high order, and if the necessary spark of genius does not come, it is no sufficient reason for making a noise about it. If we had calculated that the last player had nothing but trumps, as by the fall of the cards can constantly be done, it would have been very bad play not to have led the Diamond, but the Roarer never for a moment pretended that in the case before us he or we could have seen that the fourth player had nothing but trumps; yet, judging by the result alone, he took upon himself to criticise our play in a difficult position in the usual manner. Another example and we have done. At the end of the hand we received the usual remark, "If you had not led trumps, &c.," to which we meekly replied, "we did not want trumps, you asked for trumps and we complied with your demand," to which the Roarer replies, "I did not want trumps, I dropped the high card first by accident, and anybody could have seen that I had done so;" or, "I put on the high card to deceive them" (the adversaries); or, "I wanted them to lead trumps, not you." This is a refinement of Whist we have not yet mastered, but, if our health does not break down under the daily infliction we undergo, we trust we shall be able in the present year to exhibit some mysteries of the game; mysteries of which the old modern school are at present happily ignorant.

THE NEW BETTING ACT.

"Against stupidity the gods themselves are powerless."

We presume it is useless to attempt to reason with the present Government. It is a waste of words to point out that they have more work than they can do. They think a servile majority of more value than right and reason, and that by brute force any ill-considered and ill-advised scheme can be thrust down the throat of Parliament. Liberty and private judgment are abolished from the Liberal vocabulary. The matchmakers did not seem a very powerful body, but, with a little energy, Bryant and May beat the Government. The Bill for the Re-organization of the Army, which was to give us a means of defence against an army landed on our shores—a panacea against panics—turns out to be the abortion a breeder would predict in the produce of "Fright," by the half-breds "Cant" or "Parsimony." The bills for "the confiscation of the property of the brewers, publicans and sinners," and "for charging landlords with their tenants' taxes," are abandoned; and, as if these failures were not sufficiently conspicuous, the Government have thought it necessary to exhibit their incapacity by a Bill to do away with betting. A man who talks of stopping betting is a fit subject for Bedlam. Nearly every country has tried to put down gambling, and failed in the attempt. Yet, resolved in their perversity not to profit by the experience of the past, the Ministry determines to meddle and muddle once more. Whether betting be an evil or not we do not propose to argue. To the community at large it matters not whether A or B wins. It does not interfere with the national wealth. Sumptuary laws have always proved useless. Laws for the protection of silly men and women, to the inconvenience of the community at large, have never proved satisfactory; and there is no sufficient justification for preventing A from making a bet because B ruins himself by the process, nor to prevent B from having his bottle of wine because A gets drunk. If we had our way we would make a bet a legal contract. An examination of the subject would convince reasonable mortals that this is not a wild invention of the wicked one. We are satisfied that betting will always exist, and men who profess to govern should recognise patent facts. If the object to attain is to prevent men ruining themselves, then that object can be best accomplished by betting for ready money. This was what the legislature had in view in preventing betting debts being recoverable by law. The effect of the Actwas quite otherwise. The debt irrecoverable by process of law became a debt of a higher denomination than the baker's or butcher's bill; and, therefore, the betting debts are paid in priority to the trade debts. This is an anomaly much to be deplored. If every bet were a ready-money transaction, as it is now with the outside public who bet with the bookmakers, the least possible harm is done. If the Marquis of Hastings lost

money by betting (which we doubt), it is tolerably clear to our mind that he would not have borrowed money to make the bets. It was when he lost that he borrowed to uphold his credit. Yet the Government propose to stop the ready-money system, and make every man bet on credit. What will be the effect of this? Can any rational man believe that men will not bet for more ruinous sums on credit than for cash? Men enter into speculative transactions, the profit or loss on which is to be ascertained in the future, for larger sums than they would dream of doing for ready money. Let us go a step further, and see the effect of the measure of which we already mark the incipient signs. In every small circle there will be found an amateur bookmaker, whose interest it will be that every one of his friends should bet. Who will do the most harm, the private friend or the strange bookmaker? and who can do business on the best terms, the man with a limited *clientèle* or the universal bettor? We are satisfied that the moment the houses of the large bookmakers are closed, betting will largely increase. The friend who opens a book will have the subject continually in his thoughts. His conversation will be of betting. He will discuss the merits of different horses and their performances; and the natural result (with an Englishman) is to clench the argument with a bet. Betting will permeate more generally through society than now. "That were to blow at fire, in hope to quench it!" Instead of sending £5 or £10 to the bookmaker, the same bet will be made with a friend, and we have the risk of two persons being injured, the layer and the taker. The present measure is supposed to be introduced to protect the latter only. By reason of the smallness of the area in which the layer moves he will run the risk of being ruined. The bookmaker can bet round, the amateur—never. It is useless to criticise the Bill as it stands. It is a true specimen of amateur workmanship; but we war against the paternal interference and the principle of the measure rather than against its shortcomings. We would ask the Government to enquire fully into the whole case. Let them ascertain if the evil exists, and then see if a remedy can be found; but do not let us have any more tinkering of the Betting Acts. Do not have legislation founded on silly reports or stupid prejudices. If the Government will legislate because the Marquis of Hastings was ruined by betting (and this is what it comes to), let us first know if the statement is true, and then see if it were necessary to prevent that ruin; and, assuming both questions to be answered in the affirmative, then let us see how the present Bill will prevent the operation on future Marquises. We are sure that private betting is largely on the increase. Men play for stakes that a few years ago they would never have dreamt of doing. To our mind the increase in betting at games is owing to the stoppage of the usual channel for betting; and we think this much more pernicious than the old system. The spirit of gambling is innate. If it does not break out here, it will break out there. That spirit gives rise to hope. Hope is one of the most valuable attributes of the human race; and this quality cannot be abolished by Act of Parliament.

PIQUET.

THE following point occurred in play recently. As it seems to us suggestive, we give it a place in these columns. Score: Elder hand 36, younger 84. After discard elder hand had Hearts A, Kg, Qn, Kv, 9, 8, 7; Spades A, Kg; Diamonds A, Kg; Club Kg. Younger hand, Clubs A, Qn, Kv, 10, 9, 8; Diamonds Qn, Kv, 9; Spades Qn, Kv, 9.

A called his point six, which was good. He then claimed sequence of a quart (bad). In the ordinary mode of play elder hand would now call fourteen Kings, but if he did so he must lose the game. He, therefore, called three Aces and three Kings, and showed the three Kings (not the Club King). This naturally makes the younger hand think elder has not the Club King, and, as he has discarded a Club himself, it seems certain that elder hand cannot have a Club. The elder hand had discarded a 10. In this state of things elder hand is tolerably certain of a capot. In this case he got the capot and won the game, which otherwise he would have lost. The younger hand's quint and one trick would have made him game. The principle can be applied very often when it is not so important as in this case; and it will, we trust, bring again before the younger players the vast importance it is at all games to play to the score.

DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM.

No. LIII. By F. H. LEWIS.

A's HAND.—S Kg, 8; D Kg, Kv; H A, Kg, Qn, 5, 2; C Kv, 10, 9, 5.

B's HAND.—S A, Qn, 10, 6; D A, 9, 7, 6, 3; H 8; C 8, 7, 6.

X's HAND.—S Kv, 9, 7; D 10, 8, 2; H Kv, 7, 6, 3; C A, Kg, Qn.

Z's HAND.—S 5, 4, 3, 2; D Qn, 5, 4; H 10, 9, 4; C 4, 3, 2.

S trumps. A to lead, and A and B to make thirteen by cards.

GRAND CROQUET TOURNAMENT AT ALDERSHOT.

We have received notice of the tournament to be held at Aldershot on the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th July, under the auspices of the Grand National Club. The meeting seems to hold out every attraction which Croquet players could desire. There are to be three separate contests, one for partner prizes, a lady and gentleman, or two ladies playing together; a contest between gentlemen, open to all comers, and a contest for the championship of the two Clubs, only open to ladies who are members. Besides the attraction of Croquet itself, which is likely to be seen to advantage on the grounds of the new Club house, there will be the pleasure of visiting Aldershot, a place which nobody likes not to have seen; and, of course, those who own a charm in music will be amply repaid by the presence of some of the best military bands that can be heard. The tournament, judging from the time of year at which it is played, and the advantage of the place, has every prospect of being the great Croquet gathering of the season. A ball is to take place on the evening of the third day, which will doubtless insure the attendance of the fashionable world, independently of the magnetic influence of the game. We may add that all the entrance money will be given in prizes, with ten guineas added by the Grand National Croquet Club. The names of the committee, which is under the presidency of the general commanding the troops, give ample guarantee that no pains will be spared to make the tournament as attractive and complete as can possibly be. We understand that the railways by which Aldershot is reached will extend the times of their return tickets, so as to meet the wishes of that part of the public which may like to avail itself of this event to pay a visit to the great camp. The grounds will be open to all the world, on payment of a shilling; and a circular, giving an account of the four days' performances, can be obtained by applying to the Honorary Secretary, Aldershot Archery and Croquet Club, Control Department, Aldershot; or the Honorary Secretary, Grand National Croquet Club, Ivy House, Charlbury. We are glad to give this prominence in our columns to the meeting about to take place, as we look upon the cause of Croquet as being inseparably bound up with the success of the Grand National Club.

ALDERSHOT ARCHERY AND CROQUET MEETING.

On Thursday last the First Prize Croquet Tournament and Archery Meeting of the Aldershot Archery and Croquet Club, was held at the South Camp Gardens; and although the weather was not so propitious as might be expected in the middle of June, there was a fair assemblage of players—competitors at the targets, and spectators. These Prize Meetings are now held monthly through the summer; the first was to have been on Tuesday, 6th June, but was put off on account of the Ascot Races. They are looked forward to with interest by not only the military members of the division, but also by the county families in the neighbourhood, and are the means of bringing together in social intercourse many who would otherwise seldom have the opportunity of meeting.

The threatening aspect of the weather in the early part of the day prevented those from a distance attending, and influenced considerably the number of competitors for prizes. It was also rather late before play could commence, owing to the frequent showers. About three o'clock, however, the sky cleared a little, and soon after the arrival of two military bands enlivened the scene.

The prizes, of which one was presented by Mrs. Knox, the lady of Colonel Knox, C.B., another presented by Madame Doridant, of Aldershot Park, and five others given by the Club, were arranged for inspection under a marquee pitched in the grounds.

For the Members' Prize for Ladies at Croquet there were eight competitors: Miss Wilby winning the first, and her sister, Miss Florence Wilby, the second. A Strangers' Croquet Prize for Ladies, for which there were four competitors, was won by Miss Warre.

The Gentlemens' Prize for Croquet was won by Captain Williams.

Four ladies competed for the Archery Prize: Miss Aslett winning the first prize, with a score of 170, Mrs. Green the second, with a score of 152.

Five gentlemen shot for the Club Archery Prize: Captain Jervis, 107th Fusiliers, winning with a score of 196.

Soft rain began to fall just as the competion was over, and most of those present adjourned to the Club

House, where a very nicely-arranged cold dinner was in readiness, of which between seventy and eighty partook.

A little after 8 o'clock the band of the 91st Argylshire Highlanders quietly occupied the stage, at the end of the dancing-room; and before long the strains of a waltz set the younger portion of the company moving over as good a floor as dancers could wish for. Gradually the company was increased by arrivals from the neighbourhood, and brightened by a few shell jackets, until the number reached about 120.

The prizes were presented during the evening by Mrs. Lysons, who made a few congratulatory and encouraging remarks to each of the respective winners. And, as is usual at these social early dances, the band, soon after 12 o'clock, played God Save the Queen, and the company dispersed.

CROQUET AT CHELTENHAM.

THE Cheltenham Tournament, which came to an end in the Montpellier Gardens last Saturday, was very successful, being witnessed by a much larger and more appreciative audience than is customary at such meetings. The play also was very good; Miss Bazett, the lady champion of the Cheltenham Club, Miss Jones, Miss Peel and Miss Middlemass, being very strong indeed. The coolness and nerve, and the wonderful long shots of the latter young lady were surprising; and had she not been dead beat, from having played for eleven hours the previous day, she would have undoubtedly carried away the first prize. Mr. Peel was beaten by Mr. Lillie, the Hon. Secretary, and the Champion Mr. Law in the last round conquered Major Lane, thus adding to his laurels the honor of becoming the Cheltenham Champion also for the third time. The Champion's play during a part of the match was the finest Croquet we have ever seen.

About £40 worth of prizes were distributed, including a handsome locket, the gift of Mr. H. B. Samuelson, the member for the Borough.

LADIES.

1ST DRAW.—Miss Jones beat Miss Whatley, Miss Peel beat Mrs. Hill, Miss Middlemass beat Miss Griffiths, Miss Fletcher beat Miss Porter, Miss Bazett beat Miss M. Jones, Miss Money beat Miss Haines, Miss Harrison beat Miss McCallum.

2ND DRAW.—Miss Peel beat Miss Jones, Miss Middlemass beat Miss Fletcher, Miss Bazett beat Miss Money, Miss Harrison a bye.

3RD DRAW.—Miss Bazett beat Miss Harrison, Miss Middlemass beat Miss Peel.

GENTLEMEN.

1ST DRAW.—Mr. A. Lillie beat Mr. Peel, Major Lane beat Mr. Herbert, Rev. A. Law beat Mr. Cadell, Mr. Porter beat Mr. Haines.

2ND DRAW.—Major Lane beat Mr. A. Lillie, Rev. A. Law beat Mr. Porter.

3RD DRAW.—Rev. A. Law beat Major Lane, and won.

PARTNER PRIZE.

1ST DRAW.—Miss Money and Mr. Cadell beat Mrs. Johnstone and Mr. Haines, Miss Middlemass and Mr. Porter beat Miss C. Griffiths and the Rev. A. Law, Miss Peel and Mr. Peel beat Miss Jones and Mr. Lillie, Mrs. Hill and Major Lane a bye.

2ND DRAW.—Miss Peel and Mr. Peel beat Mrs. Hill and Major Lane, Miss Middlemass and Mr. Porter beat Miss Money and Mr. Cadell.

3RD DRAW.—Miss Peel and Mr. Peel beat Miss Middlemass and Mr. Porter, and won.

THREE-SHIRE CROQUET CLUB.

THIS club held its meeting at Higham Ferrars on the 20th ult. The last game was postponed in consequence of the absence of Mr. Lynes. We append the score:—

LADIES' PRIZE.

I.—Mrs. C. Gandy and Miss Porter won; Miss Fletcher and Miss Green absent.

Mrs. Bent and Miss Lynes beat Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Welstead.

II.—Mrs. C. Gandy and Miss Porter beat Mrs. Bent and Miss Lynes.

GENTLEMEN'S PRIZE.

I.—Capt. Dalton and Mr. Lynes beat Mr. Welstead and Mr. H. Dalton.

Mr. C. Gandy and Mr. Brown beat Mr. Cole and Mr. Bourne.

Mr. Bent and Mr. Hedges beat Mr. Shield and Mr. Bell.

Mr. C. F. Dalton and Mr. Flower beat Mr. Q. Gandy and Mr. Nash.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Jessop (a bye).

II.—Capt. Dalton and Mr. Lynes beat Mr. C. Gandy and Mr. Brown.

Mr. Bent and Mr. Hedges beat Mr. Baker and Mr. Jessop.

Mr. C. F. Dalton and Mr. Flower (a bye).

III.—Mr. C. F. Dalton and Mr. Flower beat Mr. Bent and Mr. Hedges.

Capt. Dalton and Mr. Lynes (a bye).

ALL ENGLAND CROQUET CLUB.

THE meeting, open to all comers, commences at Wimbledon on the 4th inst., when the Fifty Guinea Cup, held by Mr. Peel, will be played for. Also the Lady Champion Prize, open to members of all clubs, and to ladies properly introduced. There will also be Handicaps. Play commences at 10.30 each day.

FIXTURES.

ALL ENGLAND. 4th July and following days. Wimbledon. | GRAND NATIONAL. 11th July and following days. Aldershot.

GRAND NATIONAL CROQUET CLUB.

THE following are the bye-laws of play of the Grand National Club. The suggestion that all clubs should be equally represented at the next Conference is one which we hope will meet with every Croquet player's approval.

PREFACE.

1. In accordance with the request of the "Grand National Croquet Club," the Laws of Croquet adopted at the General Conference 1870, and revised in 1871, are accepted for the current year, subject to alterations hereinafter mentioned, but without prejudice to the absolute power of a Conference of the Secretaries of Clubs to amend or alter them as such Conference may think fit.

2. Your Committee would call attention to the fact that the Code of 1870 was declared at the last Conference to be provisional, and for that year only; and that no authority was given to any Club or Clubs to revise or alter it. The intention, doubtless, being that the Conference should re-assemble to complete its work.

3. Your Committee must further remark upon the intrinsic defects of the Revision of 1871, as shown especially in Rules 28 to 33 (inclusive), relating to strokes in error; which are not only confused in phraseology, and in some points self-contradictory, but also erroneous in their use of technical terms.

4. Your Committee are strongly of opinion that the only means of obtaining a thoroughly good Code of Laws is to follow up the course commenced in 1870, of entrusting the task to a General Conference of the Secretaries of Clubs; and that no other body can be recognised as possessing the requisite authority. The Committee also think that it would be for the interests of Croquet that no Club should be represented by more than one of its members.

5. Should it be found advisable, in any year subsequent to 1872, to make a further revision of the laws, such revision can be acknowledged only when made by a similar body, or by a Committee directly nominated by such body.

6. This provision seems to be necessary owing to the assumption of authority by the Authors of the Revision of 1871, as asserted in the first line of their Preface.

7. Your Committee believe that by thus placing all Clubs, through their secretaries, on an equality in the Conference, the best security would be obtained for avoiding a repetition of that rivalry between any individual Clubs, which has hitherto proved such an obstacle in the way of settling disputed points.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF PLAY.

"Size of grounds for matches shall not exceed 35 yards by 25 yards, nor be less than 30 yards by 20 yards."

The Committee consider that a latitude is advisable, and also that the retention of the old dimensions of a quarter of an acre (40 by 30 yards) is quite beyond the reach of private grounds, and only calculated to confine the game, as thus played, to a few Clubs and comparatively a few individuals, and thus to injure the game itself.

"The 8-hoop setting will be used in all matches of the G. N. C. C. This setting is also recommended for adoption by all Clubs."

The game virtually begins at the second hoop, and in the centre of the ground instead of in one corner, as is the case in the 7-hoop setting. The centre of the ground is not worn in one place, as where there is a single centre hoop. The points to be made are not reduced in number, which gives a better opportunity for testing skill. A greater variety of distances is obtained, viz.: 9½, 11½, 23 and 5 yards.

"The colour recommended for hoops is, before all others, Oxford blue. This will be found to be most easily distinguished in all lights and in all conditions of turf, and in bright sunshine is less glaring than white."

"The balls shall be of boxwood, and weigh not less than 14 ounces each."

The striped set is recommended, viz.: 1, 2, 3, 4, of which 1 and 3 should be blue, 2 and 4 red, or 1 and 3 black, and 2 and 4 pink. These balls give the double distinction of colour and number. The Committee also find that the less paint the balls have on them the truer they run. Where the old colours are preferred they should be laid on in two broad bands.

"The order and rotation of play, where there is no bye, is as follows (an asterisk [*] being placed over the losers in each heat):—

1st heat—A × $\overset{*}{B}$: $\overset{*}{C}$ × D : $\overset{*}{E}$ × F : G × $\overset{*}{H}$.

2nd heat—A × $\overset{*}{D}$: $\overset{*}{F}$ × G.

3rd heat—$\overset{*}{A}$ × G.

In the case of a bye, the player shall have it whose name stands last on the list, unless he has previously had one, when the player next above him shall have it. The rule being that no player can have more than one bye, thus:—

1st heat—$\overset{*}{A}$ × B : C × $\overset{*}{D}$: $\overset{*}{E}$ × F : $\overset{*}{G}$ × H : J a bye.

2nd heat—B × $\overset{*}{C}$: $\overset{*}{F}$ × J : H a bye.

3rd heat—J × $\overset{*}{H}$: B a bye.

4th heat—$\overset{*}{J}$ × B."

"Only rovers can peg out rovers."

This is the only substantive rule in the code (now conditionally accepted) which your Committee have altered. They think that the effect of the old law is to neutralise superiority of play by often giving the game, in spite of the highest skill, to the inferior player.

"CONTEST FOR CHAMPIONSHIP.—After the cup has been won at the Annual Tournament, the champion shall be bound to accept any two challenges in the same year, his expenses being borne by the G. N. C. C. The challenger must deposit £5 with the Treasurer of the G. N. C. C., which, in the event of his defeat, will be forfeited to the Club. Should the challenger beat the champion, he will receive from the G. N. C. C. £5 in addition to his stakes, and will become the holder of the Whitmore Challenge Cup for the remainder of the season. The time and place of meeting will be fixed by the Committee of the G. N. C. C."

Of the size of ground we would remark that we prefer the smallest with a very small hoop. We want to see skilful play, and clever management of the balls. According to our views extraordinary power of wrist, which is required on large grounds, is no great merit.

Of the 8-hoop setting we have already given our opinion. We refrain from giving a diagram, as the setting is generally known, and can be obtained from any of the great makers.

We have all along protested against the objectionable rule of pegging out, and therefore we of course applaud the rule now adopted by the Grand National, that only Rovers can peg out Rovers.

Our only regret is that the G. N. C. C. has not made a law against the stupid rule of using the handle as a billiard cue.

REVIEWS.

THE GAME OF CROQUET.*

THIS pleasantly written book gives an interesting account of the progress of the game from the time of its first becoming generally known in 1861 up to 1870. A comparison is made between the implements commonly in use in these two years, which furnishes a good summary of the rapid changes that have taken place. In 1861 the ordinary weight of mallet head and stick was 15 oz., against a weight varying from 32 oz. to 42 in 1870. The weight of the old beech-wood ball in 1861 was 9½ oz., and the span of the hoop 10 inches. In 1870 the weight of a box-wood ball is given as 14¾ oz., and the span of the hoop from 5 to 7 inches. In the last tournament for the Championship given by the Grand National in 1871, a still greater reduction was made in the size of the hoops, the span being only 4½ inches. The gradual changes in the game with respect to the highest degree of skill have indeed been heralded by this Club, as will be seen by reference to the notices of their tournaments. Thus in 1868 the hoop was 8 inches; in 1869 6 inches; in 1870 5 inches; and in 1871 4½ inches.

A preference is stated for the old square setting, generally known as the Highgate setting, but we think Mr. Thompson hardly makes allowance for the general advance in skill, not simply amongst the best players, but those ladies and gentlemen who play the game as an amusement at Croquet parties. We cannot help looking on the square hoop setting as really obsolete, the distances being so easy that any player who at all understands how to manage 3 balls, can hardly fail to make a runaway game of it, which naturally diminishes the interest of the game itself. On another question we are also slightly at issue with Mr. Thompson. He thinks the attraction of the game would be much lessened were it possible to force one rigid code of laws on all Clubs. If it is merely meant by this that the sizes of hoops, grounds, &c., are to be rigidly of one size, we should heartily agree with the writer. But the sizes of hoops, grounds, &c., are not matters which are to be considered strictly as laws, any more than the exact size of the pockets at Billiards is a law of the game. Of course a very small size must be fixed for the championship, or the players would go round each time for a certainty; but large hoops and large pockets will always be prepared for players of lesser calibre. As regards the laws proper, we cannot see why Croquet any more than Billiards should be hurt by the introduction of a recognised code of laws. The question of the dead boundary is ably discussed, and the law since made, and now very generally accepted, is advised for adoption.

One of the rules of the game, as played at Sheriff Hutton Park, is entirely novel, and it would not be easy to judge of the influence it would have on a game without long trial. It is a rule we think not likely to be generally adopted as a law of Croquet itself, but we are not certain it would not make a good variation of the game. A player who croquets another ball is bound in the same turn to make a point; and until he has made a point his power to croquet a ball ceases. Thus, No. 1 being at the 3rd hoop, if he croquets 2, 3, or 4, either one by itself, or all in succession, must in that turn make hoop 3, or otherwise his only means of making the hoop afterwards is by laying up towards it. Until it is made he cannot help himself by a croquet. Clearly this would make a much longer game, but it is one which would require a great deal of tact and calculation. At any rate we recommend it for a trial.

THE BILLIARD STROKE AT CROQUET.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—I resume my humble part at Croquet, which is to call special attention to those salient points in the game which engage the abilities of abler pens than mine. A new style of play has been introduced, which is likely, in the opinion of many good players, to convert the game into a sort of bad Billiards. Players are allowed to kneel, or to prostrate themselves at length on the ground, and to use the handle of their mallets as billiard cues; and the rule is alleged to be so silly, and the attitude looks so ridiculous, that the papers are likely to have much correspondence on the subject. Letters to *Land and Water* and *The Field* promise to be innumerable. *Land and Water* first called attention to this new rule, and strongly condemned it. The subject is now taken up by Cavendish in *The Field*, who appears to approve of it. This celebrated writer on Bézique

* "The Game of Croquet," as played at Sheriff Hutton Park. With Remarks Critical and Explanatory, by Leonard Thompson, Esq. Published by Cordeaux and Ernest, York.

begins his letter grandly, with an Italian quotation, "*Ogni medaglia ha il suo rovescio*," but how this quotation exactly applies to the Billiard stroke, or what the reverse side of a medal has to do with a man in a kneeling posture, I must leave Cavendish to explain. And why this writer should smother up his meaning in Italian, which is not much spoken at Croquet, is a mystery to me. Cavendish tries to refute J. B. R., and speaks favourably of "shots *à la queue*." (Here, observe, is French. Croquet is evidently a game in which much scholarship can be produced.) But it is not the scholarship to which I have to call attention, but to a slight approval of a bit of sharp practice on the part of the writer. He says: "I think J. B. R. has done himself an injustice by publishing the fact that he can infallibly make five-yard shots *à la queue*. If he had kept this secret to himself, and produced it on the 4th July, at Wimbledon, he would of course have walked away with the Champion Cup." Now, what would the value of a cup be won by a dodge like this? The rule of course will be done away with; but J. B. R. would have gained the Cup for one year, by (to use Cavendish's phrase) reversing the medal. Would it be altogether to the credit of a good player to abstain from using his influence to abolish an objectionable and stupid rule, because he had discovered a slight personal advantage which such stupid rule would give him over other players?

There is another valuable letter in the same paper on the same subject, by a lady signing herself "Materfamilias." The lady describes herself as being in "the sear and yellow leaf," and this "leaf" prevents her, it appears, from playing Croquet herself. But she has daughters who do; and she is "perfectly horrified" at learning that gentlemen may kneel when playing the game. I have read the letter carefully three times over, and cannot make out whether the writer is making a serious objection, or is merely being witty. The proper thing, therefore, is to give the substance exactly. The lady has no objection "to a little ladylike badinage or gentlemanly banter by way of rejoinder, even to a few soft nothings whispered into the ears of the darling girls." But she does object to the kneeling, and that most strongly, for "it might be construed into a positive declaration." She is certain that even "the advocates of the rule" (Cavendish no doubt included) "will be only too anxious to abolish a system which leads to so much confusion among the fair sex, and exposes gentlemen, in their flagrant and questionable genuflections, to a smack on the face from indignant mammas," and also from "Materfamilias." Perhaps the lady had the words of Hamlet in her mind in thus expressing herself—"Thou com'st in such a questionable shape." Be that as it may, I would ask if this is not rather hard treatment even for a "flagrant genuflection?" Does not the punishment exceed the offence? And could not some lesser penalty be inflicted? Why should not that delicate writer "Materfamilias" take a lesson from that delicate writer "Cavendish?" "Every medal has its reverse." A blow on the cheek, called, in the elegant phrase of the fair writer, "a smack on the face," is hard to bear. Why not, while the gentleman — that "flagrant genuflecter"—was in a kneeling position, inflict a punishment of a totally opposite nature, which would administer as effectual a chastisement, while it did him far less bodily harm?

LATAKIA.

WHIST ANECDOTES IN VERSE.

No. II.

SAID, to good Mr. Clay,
A Lordling one day,
(Who had bought all the Whist-books and read 'em),
"My hand, as you've seen,
Held five trumps to the Queen,
I suppose that I ought to have led 'em"

Worthy J. C. replied,
(As he mournfully sighed)
"I've a sad tale to tell you; so, list, sir.
Young men by the *score*,
Nay—*hundreds* and more,
Devoted, as *you* are, to Whist, sir,

On the Continent roam,
Poor exiles from home,
With scarcely a hope of relief, sir.
These, your ill-fated brothers,
With an honour—four others—
Wouldn't lead them, and so came to grief, sir."

No. III.

Our Lordling, the next day,
(Sitting opposite to Clay)
Held *two* trumps, with *splendid* cards, and started
"*blue*-ing" it.
And when the hand was over,
He thought he would discover,
If his partner thought him justified in doing it.

"You *almost* stand alone;
I've only met with *one*
But YOU, who shewed a BLUE with TWO," was Clay's reply;
"And ere six months were past,
The poor creature breathed his last,
In a private institution where insane folks die."

V. R.

THE "BLUE PETER."

(*A voice from the Downs.*)

YES, Sir, you're right; Blue Peter *is* a sin,
A nuisance—an invention of the Devil,
When working at the Helm!—'Tis like pure "gin,"—
"Cream of the valley" neat—"*an unmixed evil.*"

Oft, when I see the cruel pennon flying,
How my heart bounds, and palpitates, and thumps;
Sure, 'tis *enough* to set a poor girl sighing,
To see this cruel flag—this call for "Trumps."

P'raps the *best* Trump—the *very* best of all,
My only one, may be!—my own dear "Jack!"
And yet I'm bound to answer to the call,
And send *him* forth to strengthen the attack!

Is it not quite unjust—nay, almost "pelfish,"
For a strong Tyrant *thus* my all to crave?
In honours rich himself, it seems *so* selfish
To wrest from me the *only one* I have.

Would it not be—I ask you, in all meekness—
Productive of results, at least the same,
For him to leave me—pitying my weakness—
With little Jack to play *my* little game?

I hope he soon will go for his *last* sail;
Then, when I greet him once again on shore,
I'll pray, henceforth *new* methods may prevail,
To ask for Trumps, and "Peters" fly no more!

Deal. SUSAN.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CHESS.

JOHN S.—Problem unsound. If this were not so, it would not be adapted to our Papers.

PROBLEM TOURNEY.—Problems with the following mottoes received and forwarded to the examiners.

"Nec timeo nec sperno."

"Vast images in glimmering dawn,
Half seen are broken and withdrawn."—*Tennyson.*

"Au revoir!"

"In these problems you may find,
Sweetest nut hath sourest rind."

Dr. B. (Cheltenham).—The problem by Major C, which you were good enough to send us, has since appeared in a contemporary.

VICTOR G. (Oldenburg).—The Knight's tour in syllables has been done to death in this country by the "pickers up of unconsidered trifles." Your diagrams are very ingenious and beautiful, but we have not space for them.

J. W. ABBOTT.—Many thanks for the problem and your promise of further contributions. We shall always be glad to hear from you.

EUREKA.—You have correctly solved Nos. 5, 7 and 9. In problem No. 6 a black pawn was unfortunately omitted from Black's K 6th in the diagram. In No. 8 Black can, in reply to your move of 1 Q to Q 4, play Kt to Q Kt 4, and you cannot mate next move. In No. 10 Black's best answer to 1 R to K B 5 is R to Q B 2, and not B takes R as you suppose. We shall give the solutions of the positions in *Fossil Chess* as you request.

F. C. COLLINS.—We agree with you in your commendations of Mr. Ormond's problems in our last number. Your own shall appear next month.

J. W.—Do you really think it right to call a game never begun an *unfinished* one? On the other points we are quite of your opinion. Thanks for the games, which shall appear next month. Our space in this number was pre-engaged.

G. E. B. (Inverness).—There is a second solution to your problem. The moves can be transposed.

T. BEARDSALL.—We shall give the game next month if it does not appear in print in the meantime.

W. HOCKIN (Truro).—We shall be glad at all times to examine games and problems for you. Your defence to the Danish Gambit seems to deserve consideration, and you shall have our opinion next month.

F. WILMOT.—It is not exactly the *breadth* of your views of which we complain. We see no evidences of plagiarism. You remind us of the individual who recognised—

"The genuine flea
Caught upon Martin Luther long ago."

E. WRIGHTSON.—The first Chess column in America appeared in the New York *Spirit of the Times*, and was edited by Mr. C. H. Stanley. Your other questions we cannot answer.

WHIST.

W. W.—My partner turns up the King. The first time he gets in he leads the 2 of trumps. I, having Ace, Queen and two others, win the first round with the Queen and return the 3. My partner has the King, 10 and another, and finesses the 10. Is not this bad play?—*Ans.* We assume the question to be serious, and therefore answer it seriously. It was bad play to finesse the 10 under the circumstances, but you forget that your partner did not know the circumstances. He did not know you had the Ace, and was bound to play on the assumption of what he thought he knew, which was—1st, that you had not the Ace; and 2ndly, that the player to his right had it not. He therefore played on the assumption (a Whist certainty) that if he put on his King it must die, and therefore he properly finessed his 10. You played on two incorrect assumptions—1st, that because the rule says you are to return the lowest of four and the highest of three, therefore the rule applies when you have the King card of the suit, which is not the fact; and 2ndly, that your partner may have led from King and 2, and that he led the 2. We have seen a player with Ace and another lead the other, but it never fell to our lot to see the 2 led from King 2. We may live to see this, but at present we must play according to our lights. When we have seen this lead often we may change our views, but you played on the supposition that such an event could occur, and you fail to put yourself in your partner's position. You must think of what he knows, or is supposed to know, as well as what you know. It is an invariable rule to return the King card of your partner's original lead when you have it.

LEX.—It is a misdeal.

J. W. W.—There is no authority higher than Baldwin's Laws. Every Club in London of any note adopted these Laws.

J.—I deal, and the turn-up card comes to me. Therefore I must have given every player thirteen cards; but on taking up the cards it turns out that I have only twelve cards, and another player fourteen. I claim a fresh deal. It is clear to my mind that the other player took one of my cards, and therefore I do not see why I am to be punished. Am I right?—*Ans.* No; it is a misdeal. One player has twelve cards, and the other fourteen. It is impossible to tell how this came about. We act on the ascertained fact, and not on any surmises.

BEGINNER and DE L'ORNE.—Read Mr. Clay's book, and then Cavendish. It is impossible to have better authorities.

E. N. I.—We scarcely comprehend your position. If you take a trick that does not belong to you by accident, and you are satisfied that you have taken it wrongfully, we can see no more reason for not returning it to its rightful owner than a hat or an umbrella under similar circumstances. This is not a question of Whist law. Common honesty ought to tell you what to do.

F. W. F.—You will find we have noticed the matter to which you refer.

S.—A does not follow suit when he can. Before the trick is turned and quitted he discovers his mistake, and claims to rectify his error, but one of the adversaries has played again. Is this a revoke?—*Ans.* No. To complete the revoke the trick must be quitted, or the revoking party, or his partner must have played again.

J.—You do not appear to see that good players play for the point of three or for game. The difference between three and five is appreciable in a money point of view. The difference between three and four is very small. Having the odd trick and two by honours with the Ace and two others of a suit not touched, trumps out, we should think it bad play to lead the Ace. We should risk the small one in the hope that our partner might win the trick and return the suit, which would be game. It is quite true that the Ace may never make, and the position of the cards may make it plain that if the Ace is not made the first round it cannot be made at all. To positions of this sort we do not refer, but nine times out of ten it is worth risking the small one for the off chance of game instead of being sure of scoring four.

F. H. and S. F.—F deals, and the turn-up card comes to the right place. The cards have not been previously dealt. Half the hand is played out when one of the players finds he has a card short. Evidence of a bystander shows that the player had originally only twelve cards. This missing card is found under the table. Is this a misdeal? The point was discussed at great length, and the law appears very confused. Take the two laws, 46 and 47, and how can it be said that the pack was not imperfect? It is clear the card under the table was dropped before the deal commenced. Therefore law 47 comes into operation. The pack was imperfect, and therefore the hand was void. On the other hand, the case comes under 46, for one hand has a card short and the other the right number. We shall be glad to have your opinion on this subject?—*Ans.* The first duty of a player is to count his cards, and this he fails to do. His playing to the first trick signified his acceptance of the hand. If he accepts an imperfect one he must take the consequences (Cavendish). It seems to us clear that the case comes within law 46; one player has less than thirteen and the other three their right number. Whereas we do not see how it is brought within law 47. The pack was not imperfect within the meaning of the law. Because one card gets dropped on the floor in shuffling that does not make the pack imperfect. Law 47 refers rather to cases where no default is made by the players themselves, or to cases where all alike are in fault; as, for instance, if four cards are omitted from the pack, and the play proceeds with forty-eight cards, or if it turns out there are two cards alike, say two sevens of the same suit, and the mistake is not detected. We have no doubt on the case sent. It appears to us that it was no misdeal. The card under the table belongs to the player having twelve cards, and he is answerable for any revoke he may have made by playing without that card.

OLD BROAD STREET.—It is a revoke.

VOX.—We are quite in despair on the matter of noise at Whist. There is at the present time more noise at this game than any others played in-doors. It has been suggested that a fine of 2s 6d should be imposed on every player or outsider who makes a remark on the game which the other players at the table decide is inappropriate or delivered in too loud a tone. We shall be glad to learn this suggestion has been acted upon.

F. W.—Original lead of Diamond King followed by Queen, trumped fourth hand by me. The trumps are all out, and at the end of the hand (four cards in) my partner has 10, 9 of Diamonds, and Ace, King of Clubs. I lead a small Club which my partner won with the King. This gave us the odd trick and two by honors. The Clubs had never been led but there had been some discards. Ought not my partner now to lead the Club Ace, which would have made us four? He led the Diamond 10, and the original player had Ace, Knave, and another Diamond, and therefore the Club Ace never made. *Ans.* We should have played as your partner played. The difference between the score of 3 and 4 is very small. If the Knave and Ace of Diamonds are in different hands, your partner has taken a fair chance of getting game, and this chance all good players would take. In the position stated he lost a trick, but losing a trick is not necessarily bad play. He was playing to the score, and you apparently do not.

M.—The deal stands good if the bottom card is faced. If any other than the bottom card is faced there must be a fresh deal.

PIQUET.

SIMPLE SIMON.—We quite agree. In our opinion it is very advisable that players at Piquet should get into the habit of playing without sorting their cards. We have pointed out this in the matter of Whist, and it is obvious the same remark applies to Piquet. Of course at Piquet the majority of the cards in your opponents hands are known, but if by the division of your cards in sorting, you make it clear to your opponent that you have no guard to a particular suit he will play more speculatively than he otherwise dare to do. What we call speculation would be with some players a certainty.

R. B—A, elder hand, says, "I leave a card." B, younger hand, discards four and takes in three cards, leaving the card left by A on the table. At the end of the hand B discovers he has played with eleven cards, and claims the right to take up the card lying on the table. The usual row ensued, bystanders, as per custom, adding to the turmoil. I was appealed to. My decision was that B had elected to play with eleven cards, and must abide by his choice. Cam said the decision was wrong. Think this well over, and decide in the Papers next month. In treating of Piquet, Hoyle says:—"The dealer is not bound to discard at all, but if he does he must take in first those that are left by the elder hand"?—*Ans.* This question is one of much difficulty. In the absence of written law, after consultation with players of experience, I have come to the following conclusion:—B is entitled to the card which he had left on the table, as much as if he had dropped it on the floor or elsewhere,—the more so as his negligence was, in all probability, induced by his adversary, who ought, after looking at the card which he had left, to have immediately replaced it on the stock, or, if the stock had been hurriedly taken up, to have given it to B. He has, of course, a right to take the last trick with this card, if he has not already renounced the suit. I cannot, however, give to B the *right* to have the cards played over again. He must suffer, more or less, for his carelessness, and A must have the option of abiding by the result of the hand as it has been played, or of demanding that it be played again.—J. C.

HABET.—De La Rue, Goodall, Hunt and Reynolds, all supply Piquet cards.

BILLIARDS.

T. T.—There is little to choose between one billiard-table maker and another. Tables of the best quality of any of our leading makers are sure to be good. Burroughes and Watts, Cox and Yman, Magnus, Thurston and Co, and Orme and Son, of Manchester, we should place in the first rank.

THE CHESS WORLD.

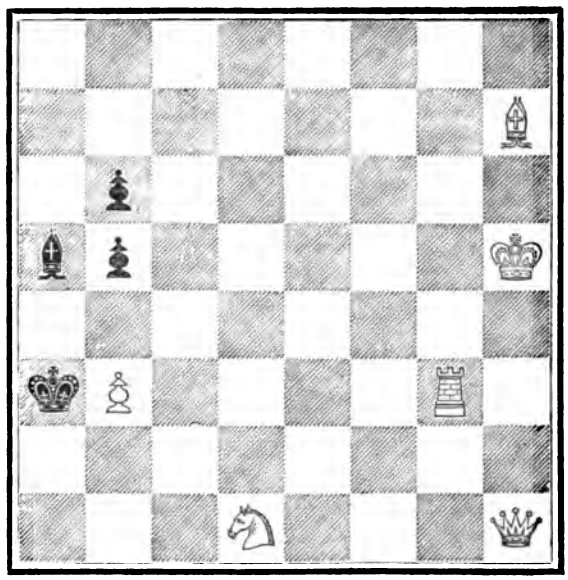
"The whisperings of our petty burgh."

A MATCH between the Bermondsey and the Railway Clearing-House Club was played on the 7th ult., at the rooms of the latter, in Seymour Street, Euston Square, and resulted in favour of Bermondsey. The following is the score:—

BERMONDSEY.	Won		Won	RAILWAY.	Won		Won
Mr. Beardsell	1	Mr. Dawkins	0	Mr. Knight	0	Mr. Casewell	1
„ Dredge	0	„ Freeman	1	„ Kindell	1	„ Davis	0
„ Barker	0	„ Powell	1	„ Eades	1	„ Hawkins	0
„ Saloway	1	„ Pridmore	1	„ Cox	0	„ Petford	0
„ Holeman	1	„ Hawkins	1	„ Tassell	0	„ Hoare	0
„ Monk	1	„ Sexton	1	„ Linton	0	„ Coleman	0
			9				3

The Hartford (Connecticut) *Weekly Times* contains a well-edited Chess column, with contributions from the leading players and problem composers of America, and pleasantly written gossip upon Chess matters at home and abroad. The Problem in the margin (extracted therefrom) is the composition of Mr. T. M. Brown, whose contributions to our tournament of 1862 were so much admired in England. Mr. Brown had retired from the Chess arena, but we are glad to say has been induced, from his interest in the Chess column under notice, to take the field again.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

The *Dubuque Chess Journal* (O. A. Brownson, jun., Dubuque, Iowa) announces several tournies of a novel and interesting character. In No. 1, prizes are offered for the most artistic correction of any faulty or imperfect problem that has appeared in the Journal to June 1871; closes 18th August 1871. In No. 2, five prizes are offered, viz.:—For the best problem, any number of moves; for the best three-move, for the best four-move, and the best two-move problem, ordinary mates, and for the best self-mate problem in more than four moves; this tourney closes on the 20th October 1871. The competition is open to all comers, and we hope there is sufficient enterprize among English composers to induce many of them to enter the lists so chivalrously thrown open to them. The tourney will have a peculiar interest from the original idea that the competing problems may be composed for boards containing 25, 36, 49, 64, 81, or 100 squares. Such an arrangement is almost certain to produce some novelties in problem composition, and, if we mistake not, will test the original power of the competitors severely, for the old grooves of the ordinary board will be out of place on the larger field. We congratulate the Journal on giving the Chess world something new in problems.

The Handicap Tournament of the Melbourne Club commenced on the 1st May last, but much progress

had not been made up to the date of our last advices. Mr. Burns, of Melbourne, is the only player in the first division of the first class.—The Match between South Australia and New South Wales was to be played on the 24th May, and the *Adelaide Observer* gives short biographical sketches of the players who were to represent that city.

With reference to the Chess frauds, which excited so much indignation in the colony last year, *The Leader* (Melbourne) has the following:—

The following paragraph on this subject appeared last week in the *Collingwood Advertiser*, by a happy coincidence only a few days previous to the election of a town clerk for Fitzroy, for which office, we believe, the person named in the paragraph was a candidate:—"We hear that there is some prospect of the Chess Frauds being discovered—the concoction of the R. T. P. correspondence having been sheeted home to some individual, against whom Mr M'Combe intends taking legal proceedings." Mr M'Combe is to be congratulated on having at length discovered a clue to the mystery, the more so as we understand that his long continued silence has been construed, among Chess-players, into an admission of his having been himself concerned in these frauds. Now that he is in possession of proof that will shift the guilt to some one else, he is bound, in justice to himself and the Chess public, to lose no time in producing it. Nothing will give us greater pleasure than to have the matter thoroughly investigated, and we are sure that every member of the Chess community will rejoice to see the frauds "sheeted home" to the real author.

We shall rejoice with our contemporary, all the more if the gentleman referred to is the well-known London amateur who left this country some twenty years ago for Australia, and who contributed a very lively sketch of some Chess feats performed during the voyage to a short-lived little magazine called *The British Chess Review*, then edited by Herr Horwitz.

UNCONSIDERED TRIFLES.

AMONG the remarkable events of the month may be cited that the *Illustrated News* has printed some games played recently in England; that the Chess column in *Land and Water* appeared one week without any reference to the British Chess Association, and that *The Field* had a game, *with analytical notes*, copied with great ability from the *Quarterly Chronicle.*

No wonder Bermondsey won the match with the railway officials, for they brought with them a *Monk* to shrive, a *Hole-man* with a *Barker* to kill, and a *Sexton* to ring the knell of their adversaries.

The Chess Quarterly prints a letter from Mr. Cocking, of the Sheffield Club, stating that there are two Mr. Cockaynes in that institution. There must be much *crowing* in that neighbourhood on club nights.

An American paper says that Mr. Staunton is "still the British lion." I should have supposed this particular lion to be of the Grecian type, as described by one Peter Quince, citizen and carpenter of Athens. At all events, his part has included a fair share of "roaring." Without special reference to any one, I may venture to remark that if Æsop's lion had not brayed he might have continued a lion to the end of the chapter.

One of the conditions of the Problem Tourney announced by the Counties Chess Association is that the competing problems must be "printed or neatly drawn upon diagrams." This extraordinary rule seems admirably adapted to limit the competition to Chess editors and R.A.'s, especially the latter.

The "syllabic" Knight has extended his tour to Australia, and has found an appropriate refuge in the conundrum columns of the colonial papers. He did not succeed in this country, where, if he found no favour, he got at least a clear Field. I hope his stay at the antipodes may be permanent, and that your friends there will not look this horse in the mouth, although, having regard to his former associations, it appears like flattery to call the "syllabic" champion a *horse.*

The Chess players of New York are discussing the desirability of introducing the practice of playing for a small stake. Here we have been for some time considering the propriety of "cutting" it.

Saddle White Surrey for the Field. My rejuvenescent neighbour seems inclined to emulate the impecunious equestrian of the proverb, and begins his journey by "running amuck" against everything and everybody. From one having no opinions on any subject, not even upon the games printed in his columns, he is suddenly transformed into a person of strong convictions, and "bears witness" with all the fervour peculiar to converts of the street-corner type. The review of Mr. Long's Key to the Chess Openings is a good illustration of this new "spiritual revival." It is obviously however not the work of any of the regular Chess contributors of *The Field;* indeed, from the practised ease with which, like the immortal Tom Thumb, the reviewer creates his giant for the mere purpose of killing him, I should judge the article in question to have been written by an "eminent hand." He first contrasts Mr. Long's modest little *Key to the Chess Openings* with such works as the *Handbuch* and the *Theorie und Praxis* (the reviewer is wrong in stating that the *Key* does not contain a "single reference" to the latter), and then so far as I can understand him, scolds the author for not having copied them as any other Chess writer would have done.

I have no doubt that it will suit Mr. Long's book to be condemned for what it is not, rather than for what it is; and after all that style of criticism, notwithstanding its cleverness, is only effective where the writer is

addressing readers who know less than himself. Although *The Field* has missed its mark on this occasion, your own gatherer is unfeignedly glad to see him display an ambition to shoot.

It cannot be gainsaid that it is
Better to have shot and missed
Than never to have shot at all.

FOSSIL CHESS.

ONE (more or less) of our venerated subscribers has (or has not, as the case may be) forwarded to us a letter, saying that, although our description of the Rutkh or Car of Juggernaut, in our June number, was in every respect satisfactory, still it would have been even more satisfactory had we thought fit to send a special correspondent to Pursotem, to get more minute details. We were deeply indebted for the advice, and we proceeded to act upon it as early as possible. As, in our last paper, we promised to give some account of Chess in China, we thought that our special correspondent could not be better employed than in proceeding to that country, in order to glean all possible information on this subject. We wished also to have a doubt cleared up in our minds, as to whether there might be any truth or not in the statement of some writers, that on the walls of a palace at Thebes, built by Amenoph II., and called Medeenet Abuh, there is a representation of that monarch playing at Chess with his wife; and this is said to have taken place long before the siege of Troy. As our special correspondent would have to pass through Egypt by the "overland route," we fancied that we could thus kill two birds with one stone. The same evening we inserted an advertisement in a London paper, and immediately received a number of applications too numerous to mention. From the mass we selected one, to which we replied, requesting an early interview. On reaching the office of the *Westminster Papers*, next morning, we found a "four-wheeler" at the door. Its roof was literally thatched in with papers, printed and penned, and all in various stages of decomposition. These we afterwards learned were the testimonials of our special correspondent. On entering the office, we saw the gentleman himself, seated on our sofa. He was engaged in selecting the fluey deposit from his waistcoat pocket, and placing it attentively in his hat. He bowed; we bowed. He then presented a testimonial. It was tattered and fulsome. He said there were others below. After giving him full instructions, to which he appeared to pay great attention, we offered him a glass of wine. It was no sooner said than done for. He now went on to tell us that he had been brought up as an "authorist," that all his parents were rich but honest, and that he had received a liberal education, and would we advance five shillings. We advanced.

About a week subsequent to this interview, as the weather was very sultry, we decided to go for a time to that delightful watering-place, on the south coast of England, Margate. We found the ladies were willing, and we took with us all our little encumbrances,—

Ivory-white the forehead of each,
The cheeks of each the pink of the peach,
The lips of each the red of the rose,
Ivory-white each dear little nose,
And pearly each row of even teeth,
The row above and the row beneath.

This is forgivable,—it is paternal joy. We thought it would do them good.

On the second morning of our visit, while strolling on the beach, we saw, considerably to our surprise, our special correspondent, whom we supposed to be on his way to China. He was playing at "heads and tails" with a friend, whom he introduced as the "poet." He believed he might fairly be considered the champion poet of the country. He then presented to us, with much enthusiasm, a folded paper, which, without doing much violence to truth, might be characterised as not clean. He said his apologies could not be too "profusive," for not having presented it before. The contents of the paper were as follows:—

Expenses to China and back by Overland Route	£15	3	8
Cab hire	18	15	3
Expenses at the Cape of Good Hope	23	4	2
Shipwreck in Bohemia, with loss of correspondence ...	35	0	0
Expenses in New York	84	6	10
Refreshments at Charing Cross	0	5	0
Ditto in the Strand	0	4	6
Ditto in Fleet Street...	0	3	8
Ditto in St. Paul's Churchyard	0	2	10
Ditto in Cornhill	0	2	6
Ditto in Leadenhall Market...	0	1	6
Ditto in Whitechapel	0	1	0
Policeman	0	2	6
Cab hire	18	15	3
Total	£125	4	6½

We trusted he felt very much refreshed by the time he reached home; he said it had been very cold

recently; we differed. After our having given him to understand the determination we had arrived at to place the matter in our solicitor's hands, he informed us with great warmth that he was a young man of unblemished character, and repeated his previous observation concerning all his parents. He said he was anxious to offer a liberal compromise, and retired to consult with his friend the poet. On his return he expressed a willingness to accept half-a-crown, two gallons of porter, and a testimonial, in full liquidation. To the latter part of the liberal compromise we demurred.

After some further conversation, during which we are sorry to say we lost our temper, and, as we subsequently discovered, our watch, the champion poet tottered up with much majesty, and with (to borrow an expression from Artemus Ward) considerable liquor concealed about his person, he observed in a learned and dignified manner that he himself would give the testimonial, provided we would consent to make it "six-ale instead of porter." To this we agreed, and declining the offer of a glass of the "very best," wished them both good morning. From that moment we finally made up our mind not to engage any more special correspondents.

Mr. Disraeli, in his Notes to *Alroy*, tells us that on the walls of the temple alluded to above, the representation is that of a game at Chess; we are sorry to have to differ from so eminent an authority, but from our own researches we cannot but come to the conclusion that the representation is one of Draughts, which all the world knows is the oldest extant game, common even in the time of Sesostris, and this is proved by numerous remains in old Egyptian architecture. There is no single instance of a game of Chess having been found on any Egyptian monument, unless it be the one in question; but this, from its dilapidated condition, cannot be considered as evidence: the pieces on the portion of board that remains might represent anything in the world, but do not bear greater resemblance to Chessmen than to anything else. We think, therefore, the scientific world is justified in believing the game to be Draughts like all the other representations, and not Chess, which we have elsewhere stated to be of later date.

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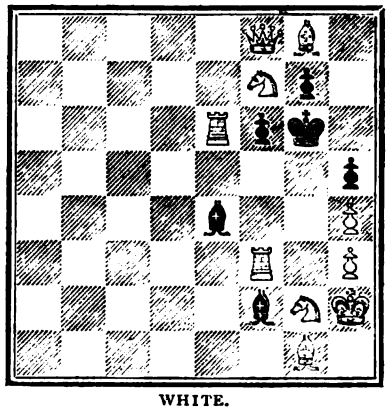


WHITE.
White self-mates in four moves.

We finish with a little problem, but do not know what its composition is intended to illustrate; it is suicidal, and, for the benefit of those of our readers who do not like this kind of problem, it is the last of its sort, which, though perhaps not generally admired, is certainly best suited to this climate.

We defer our account of China and the Chinese till the next.

WESTMINSTER PROBLEM TOURNEY,

Problems received with the following mottoes:—"Playmates," "Trois Etoiles," "Sequitur victoria fortis," "Ex luce lucellum," "Nil desperandum," "Nemo," "Some of Life's Chips," "Clavam Extorquēre Hercŭli."

So far as the composers residing in England are concerned, the entries are closed. Problems from abroad will be received up to the 14th instant.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

DEAR SIR,—Why such illiberality to problem composers on the part of the *Counties Chess Association?* For six entries they claim 15s, and give *in books* a prize of £2—in other words, they will part with the munificent sum of £1 5s for eighteen or twenty-four problems of first-class character.

The composers are obviously expected to be above pecuniary considerations. This does not appear to be the case with the Association. If they get five entries they are the richer by 12s 6d, and also fifteen to twenty original problems for which they give no prize at all!

Is it supposed that any composer will part with his best productions for this possibility? Hardly. Such illiberality can only lead to disappointment. Yours truly, X.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEMS IN THE JUNE NUMBER.

No. V.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P to Q 4	1 Anything
2 Mates accordingly	

No. VI.

1 R to Q B 4	1 Aught
2 Kt mates	

No. VII.

1 R to K 3 ch	1 Kt takes R
2 R to Q 4 ch	2 Kt takes R
3 Kt to Q 6 mate	

No. VIII.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P to K 7	1 Aught
2 Mates accordingly	

No. IX.

1 B to Q 7	1 P moves
2 R to K 4 ch	2 P takes R
3 R mates	

No. X.

1 R to Q R 2	1 B takes R
2 B to K R 5	2 Aught
3 Mates	

No. XI.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 B to K B 4	1 K takes Kt
2 B to Kt 7	2 Aught
3 P mates	

No. XII.

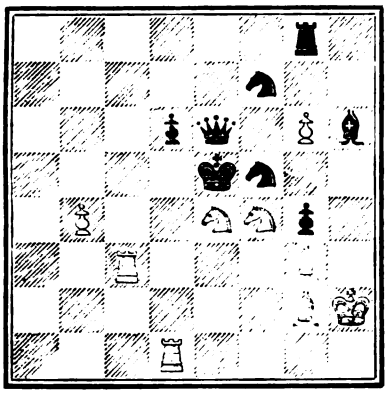
1 P to B 3	1 K moves
2 B to B 8	2 K moves
3 B mates	

No. XIII.

1 P to B 6	1 P moves
2 P to B 7	2 K takes Kt
3 P to B 8 Queens and mate	

TOURNEY PROBLEMS.

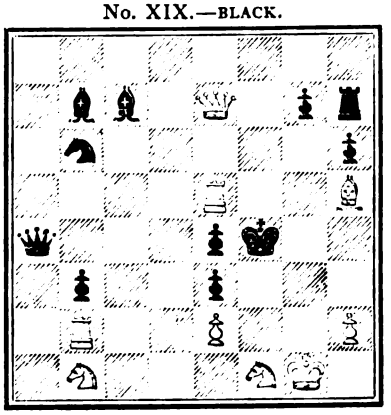
No. XVIII.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

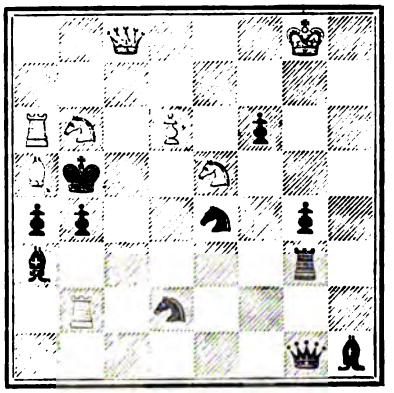
Trois Etoiles.

No. XIX.—BLACK.



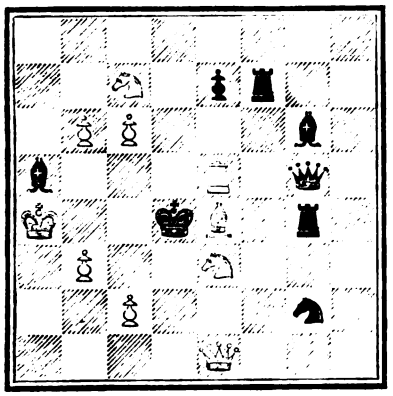
WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. XX.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

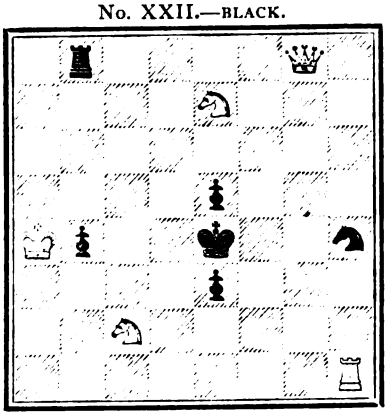
No. XXI.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

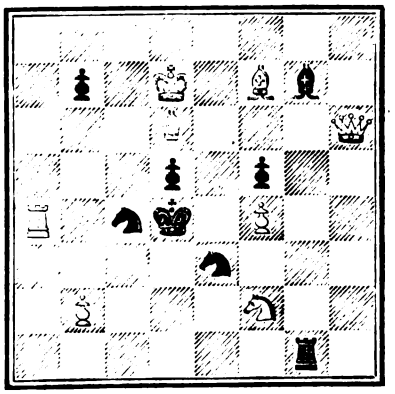
Nec timeo, nec sperno.

No. XXII.—BLACK.



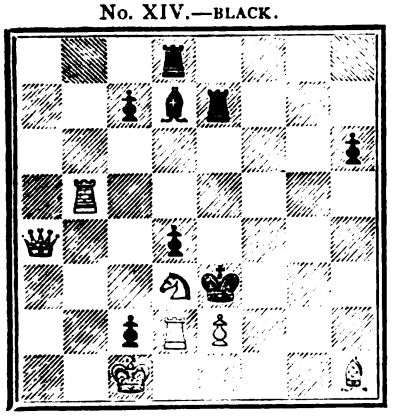
WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

No. XXIII.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

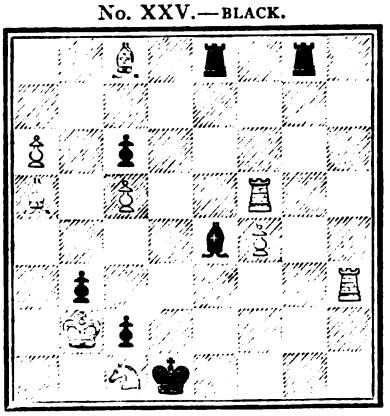
No. XIV.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

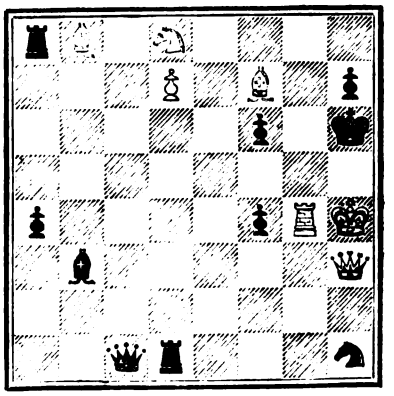
Vast images, in glimmering dawn,
Half seen, are broken and withdrawn.

No. XXV.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

No. XXVI.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

GAMES.

GAME XXXVII.—The following amusing Game occurred in the City of London Chess Club Tourney, the second player giving the odds of Pawn and two moves.

(Remove Black's K B P.)

White. Mr. B.	Black. Mr. Potter.	White. Mr. B.	Black. Mr. Potter.
1. P to K 4	1.	17. Kt to Q 4	17. Q to Q 2 (d)
2. P to Q 4	2. P to Q 3	18. Kt to Q 2	18. P to Q B 4
3. B to Q 3	3. P to Q B 3	19. Kt to K B 5	19. R to K R 2
4. P to Q B 3	4. K to Q 2 (a)	20. Q to K B 4	20. R to K B 2
5. P to K B 4	5. K to B 2	21. P to K Kt 4	21. Q to Q B 3
6. B to K 3	6. Kt to K B 3	22. Kt to K B 3	22. B takes Kt
7. P to K B 5	7. P to K 4	23. P takes B	23. Kt to Q 2
8. B to K Kt 5	8. B to K 2	24. Q R to Q sq	24. Q R to Kt sq ch
9. Kt to K B 3	9. K Kt takes P (b)	25. Kt to Kt 5	25. Kt to K B sq
10. B takes B	10. Q takes B	26. P to K R 4	26. Kt to K 3
11. B takes Kt	11. P takes Q P	27. Q to K Kt 3	27. Kt takes Kt
12. Q takes P	12. R to K sq	28. P takes Kt	28. R to K R 2
13. Castles (c)	13. Q takes B	29. Q to K 3	29. R to R 8 ch
14. Q takes Kt P ch	14. R to K 2	30. K to B 2	30. R to R 7 ch
15. Q to K Kt 5	15. P to K R 3	31. K to K sq	31. R to K sq
16. Q takes P	16. Q takes K B P	Resigns.	

(a) We venture to think that for this novelty we are indebted to a well-grounded confidence in the adversary's weakness. (b) Ingenious enough—there is no eccentricity here. (c) If Q Kt to Q 2, then follows B takes P, &c. (d) We have never seen anything more disastrous in appearance than the position of Black's forces at this juncture.

GAME XXXVIII.

(Evans's Gambit.)

White. Herr Kolisch.	Black. Lord Cremorne.	White. Herr Kolisch.	Black. Lord Cremorne.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	13. Q to Kt 5 ch	13. P to Q B 3
2. Kt to K B 3	2. Kt to Q B 3	14. R takes Kt ch	14. B to K 3
3. B to B 4	3. B to Q B 4	15. B takes B	15. P takes B
4. P to Q Kt 4	4. B takes P	16. Q to K 2	16. Q to K B 2
5. P to Q B 3	5. B to R 4	17. Kt to Q 2	17. K to Q 2
6. P to Q 4	6. P takes P	18. Kt to Q B 4	18. R to K sq
7. Castles	7. P to Q 3	19. R to Q R 5 (b)	19. Q to K B sq
8. Q to Q Kt 3	8. Q to K B 3	20. R to Q Kt sq (c)	20. B takes R
9. P to K 5	9. P takes K P	21. R takes P ch	21. B to Q B 2 (d)
11. R to K sq	10. B to Q Kt 3 (a)	22. Q to K 5	22. R to Q B sq
11. B to K Kt 5	11. Q to K B 4	23. Q takes Q P ch	23. K to K sq
12. Kt takes K P	12. Kt takes Kt	24. R takes B	24. R takes R

White mated in two moves.

(a) Black seems to lose time here. (b) Threatening to win the Q by Kt to K 5 ch, &c. (c) Very fine, and quite sound.
(d) If—
Kt to Q 6 ch — K to Kt sq
Q to R 6, and must win. — Q takes Kt

GAMES.

We are indebted to Herr Mincwitz, the accomplished editor of the *Schachzeitung* (Leipsic), for a packet of games played at Liepsic in March last. We have selected the following for our present number.

GAME XXXIX.

(Ruy Lopez Opening.)

White. Herr SCHLOEMANN.	Black. Herr MINCWITZ.	White. Herr SCHLOEMANN.	Black. Herr MINCWITZ.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	16. P to K R 3	16. P to K R 5
2. Kt to K B 3	2. Kt to Q B 3	17. B to R 2	17. P to K Kt 5
3. B to Kt 5	3. P to Q R 3	18. R P takes P	18. Q to Q 2
4. B to R 4	4. Kt to K B 3	19. K P takes P	19. P takes P
5. P to Q 4	5. P takes P	20. R to Q sq (d)	20. P to R 6
6. P to K 5	6. Kt to K 5	21. B to K 5	21. B takes P at Kt 4
7. Kt takes P	7. Kt to Q B 4	22. P to K B 3	22. P takes B (e)
8. B to Q Kt 3 (a)	8. Kt takes B	23. R takes Q	23. B to B 4 ch
9. R P takes Kt	9. Kt takes Kt	24. K to R 2 (f)	24. P takes P ch
10. Q takes Kt	10. B to K 2	25. K takes P	25. B to R 6 ch
11. Q to K Kt 4	11. K to B sq (b)	26. K to Kt 3	26. B takes R
12. Castles (c)	12. P to Q 3	27. Kt to B 3	27. R to Kt sq ch
13. Q to K 2	13. B to K 3	28. K to R 2	28. R to Kt 3
14. B to B 4	14. P to K Kt 4	29. Kt to K 4 (g)	29. K to Kt 2
15. B to K Kt 3	15. P to K R 4	30. Kt to Kt 3	Black forced mate in four moves.

(a) B takes Kt seems preferable. (b) Obviously castling would be imprudent. (c) This gives Black an opportunity for an attack upon the King's quarters of which he at once takes advantage. (d) Kt to Q B 3 would have been more to the purpose. (e) A daring and ingenious sacrifice, and we believe perfectly sound. (f) His best move apparently. If K to B sq, then follows P takes P ch, and if K takes P, we have the position in the text. If Q takes P, she is lost on Black playing B to R 6, and if on the other hand the K is played to B sq the Pawn Queens, &c. (g) R to Q sq seems a better resource, but even in that case Black we think should win.

GAME XL.

(Fianchetto Defence.)

White. Mr. DE VERE.	Black. Mr. BURDEN.	White. Mr. DE VERE.	Black. Mr. BURDEN.
1. P to K 4	1. P to Q Kt 3	16. B takes B	16. Q takes B ch
2. P to Q 4	2. B to Q Kt 2	17. Kt to K 2	17. Q to R 5 ch
3. B to Q 3	3. P to K Kt 3	18. P to Kt 3	18. Q to K 5
4. P to K B 4	4. P to K B 4	19. R to K Kt sq	19. Q R to K sq
5. Kt to Q B 3	5. P to K 4	20. Q to Q 3	20. Q to Kt 5
6. B P takes P	6. B to Q Kt 5	21. P to K R 3	21. Q to R 4
7. Kt to K 2	7. P takes K P	22. P to Kt 4	22. Q to R 5 ch
8. B to Q B 4	8. Kt to K 2	23. Q to Kt 3	23. R takes Kt ch (c)
9. B to K Kt 5	9. P to Q 4	24. K takes R	24. B to R 3 ch
10. B to Kt 3	10. Castles	25. P to Q B 4 (d)	25. P takes P *en passant* ch
11. Kt to Kt 3	11. P to Q B 4 (a)	26. K to Q sq	26. R to B 8 ch
12. K Kt takes P	12. Kt to Q 2	27. K to B 2	27. R to B 7 ch
13. Kt to B 6 ch	13. Kt takes Kt (b)	28. K to Q sq	28. R to Q 7 ch
14. P takes Kt	14. P takes Q P	29. K to B sq	29. Q takes Q
15. P takes Kt	15. B takes P	30. R takes Q	30. P takes P ch And White resigns.

(a) The Pawn cannot be saved, and Black wisely devotes his energies to the counter attack. (b) This gives up the piece at once but Black obtains for it a fine attacking game. (c) An excellent conception, and apparently quite sound. (d) He has nothing better to do. If—

K to Q 2	R to B 7 ch
K moves	R to B 8 ch
K to Q 2	Q to Kt 4 ch, and wins the Queen, &c.

WHIST.

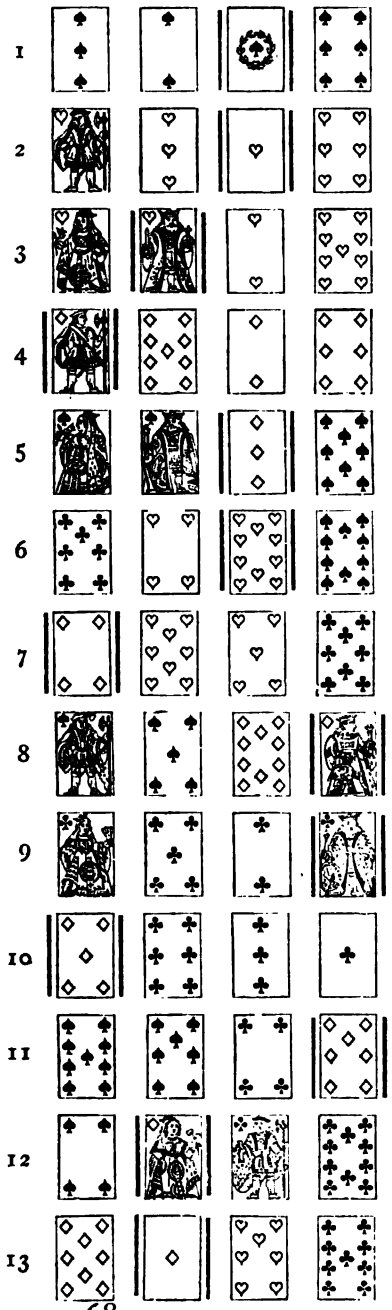
A and B play against X and Z. A leads. The card with the double rim wins, and the card below the rimmed card is the next one led.

HAND No. 100.

Score—A and B love. X and Z 3.

Diamonds trumps. Z turns up D Kg.

Played at the Westminster Chess Club.

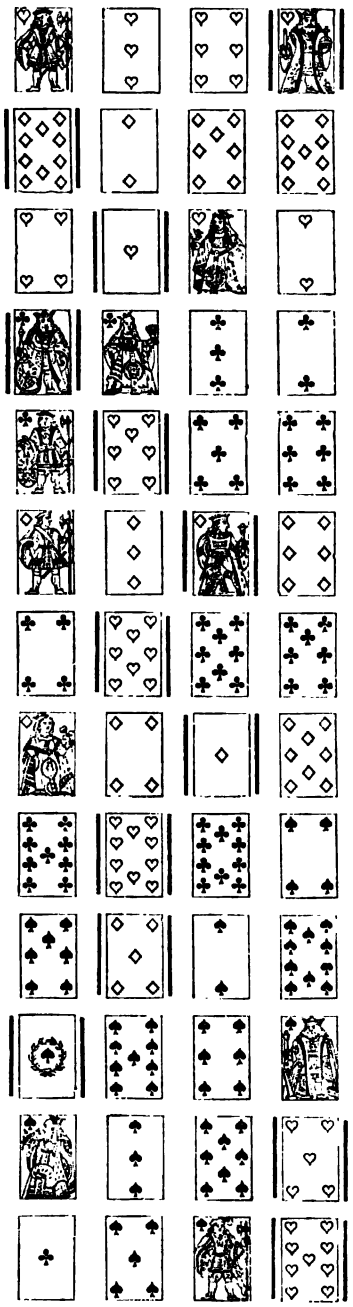


HAND No. 101.

Score—Love all.

Hearts trumps. Z turns up H 9.

Played at the Westminster Chess Club.

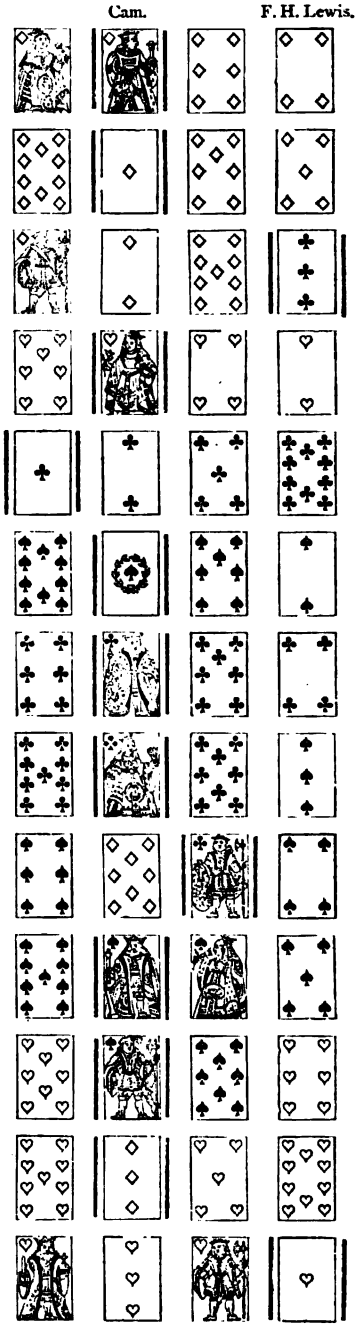


HAND No. 102.

Score—Love all.

Clubs trumps. Z turns up C 10.

Played at the Westminster Chess Club.



HAND No. 100.

NOTES.—4. Z assumes that his partner's lead of the 9 of trumps is from weakness, and passes it, as he considers this play the best defence of the game.—The assumption is quite arbitrary: his proper reflection should have been that it was two to one against B holding the Ace, and consequently, by playing Kg on the lead of the 9, that it was two to one on securing two rounds of trumps *at least*, an object apparently so imperative that even rashness would have been justifiable. Z has, in this instance, fallen into a line of play—only too much 'en vogue' now-a-days in certain circles—which goes by the name of "fine Whist."—Query: Would not "bad Whist" be a better title but for the redeeming fact that it shews a certain amount of attention and thought, as against the purely mechanical, or at least the purely technical, style of the majority of players? In this case Z has shewn ingenuity in losing the odd trick. He should have played Kg to his partner's lead of trumps, continued the suit, which would have resulted in three rounds of trumps, after which Ace, Kg of Clubs, and Kg of Spades are all certain tricks.

HAND No. 101.

NOTES.—4. To have won with Ace and followed with Kv would have given a better chance of stealing a trick. It is often right to play a false card in the *adversaries'* suit, when you know, as A does, that all the remaining trumps are against you. 9. An extremely bad lead. B ought to know that the remaining Clubs are in his partner's hand, because Z would not have led from three Diamonds had he held four Clubs. B ought also to credit his partner with strength in Spades, because his original lead from weak trumps signifies power in plain suits. It is impossible to discover the object of the leader in allowing one strong hand to discard and the other to trump, especially as he knows that the last Diamond (which must lie with the probable winner of this trick) will provide a second discard for Z. Surely the correct play was a spade. Query the size thereof?

JOTTINGS.—SUGGESTIONS FOR BEGINNERS.

HAVING sorted and counted your cards, and obtained an accurate knowledge of the contents of your hand—by which we mean the number and strength of each suit—it is your duty to form some scheme or line of play. To do this with advantage you must take into consideration the turn-up card, and observe the score of your own side and that of your opponents. You decide in effect whether to try to win, or to save the game. Nothing is more foolish than to play for a great score with a weak hand. Any scheme that you may lay down is liable to be frustrated; but if your mind is clear, and the goal before your eyes, you will play with much greater precision than if these considerations are absent from your thoughts. Having made up your mind what you are to try to do, your attention should be devoted no longer to your own hand but to the table. Observe the cards as they fall from each hand, and draw your inferences as the play proceeds. The number of deductions that can be made is so great that the tyro must not attempt too much; but if he plays with attention, each day the amount of information he will get will be greater than that obtained the preceding day. It is assumed that the player knows the book leads, and the little piece,—inferences from leads, page 71 of Vol. I. Carefully study and master this, the most valuable paper that ever appeared in these pages. The first object to attain, and to be constantly borne in mind, is to save the game; but the moment this is certain, the next is to win the game; and if this be impossible, then to make a point. The difference in the value of the position of the rubber when the score is at one, compared with two; or three, compared with four is very small. To obtain the point three, or the game five, any risk may be fairly run, so if you are three, and are certain of four, and by taking an extra risk you have the chance of game, never fail to take that chance. We insist on this the more strongly because we find good players grumble at our not making four when the chance of five that we have played for has not come off. If success follow your plan the point is of real value. It is a gain of a point, and this is a real, and, as Mr. Wemmick said, of a realizable value. The value that worthy attached to portable and convertible property should always be impressed upon the Whist player's mind. Supposing the youngster to fail, he may be scolded for the loss of a trick. This must be borne, and the first time gain comes instead of loss you meet your reward, and if the scolder is in a good humour remind him of the fact, and make him set off the imaginary offence against the real benefit. Never play for a great game except when it is absolutely necessary. Never try to make ten when five only is wanted. Never try to make two tricks when one is sufficient. Never follow the shadow when you can seize the substance. If the road is clear to make one trick, when one only is wanted, if you see a way of making that one, never change your tactics, but pass any number of tricks rather than give up your certainty. We give an instance of this in Simple Endings No. 16, p. 21 Vol. II. There the player had the 2nd best trump guarded, and all he had to do was to wait to win the game. All that was required was patience—a virtue which we regret to say many Whist players do not possess. If one trick only is wanted, it matters not whether it be the 7th or the 13th. The game is equally won with the 13th as with the 7th. We fancy there are many players that do not realize this fact. All this simply means that the player must play to the score. This maxim is the epitome of all the theory and practice of Whist. A player that attends to this maxim becomes a good player. A player who does not attend to it will never be a Whist player as long as he lives. There are some men so obtuse that if one trick only is wanted they will finesse a Queen, having the Ace; nay more, they will justify the finesse, and declare they played correctly and according to the laws of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. There is no rule without an exception. A rule as to a finesse is good enough in theory, but in practice it is

nothing. No man in his right mind would finesse the Queen when he knows the 2nd hand (his right hand adversary) has not the King, but we doubt whether half the players of England would not make the finesse from habit or sheer stupidity. The only rule that can be laid down is that any finesse is justifiable to win or save the game or point. Of course at the beginning of the hand no one can see for certain that the game can be saved or won, except on the calculation that some finesse may turn out successfully. During the early part of the game finesse little or much according to the strength of the hand, and the probable chances of the result. Finesse when strong; finesse very little when weak; finesse not at all when you have sufficient power to get all you want without finessing. The time to which our remarks chiefly apply is the middle and end of the hand, when the position of the cards becomes known, and the strength or weakness of one side or the other is declared. Amongst the old players who seized the right opportunity for going in for game this faculty used to be called intuition or divination. It is in reality observation. If a player is attentive he knows by the leads and by the play who is strong and who weak. Whether a man is playing a backward or waiting game, or, in racing language, making the running, and getting exhausted before the time of triumph arrives. If a player leads out his Aces and Kings it follows he is weak in trumps, and that he is making all the tricks he can in the hope that his partner will with the knowledge and power thus acquired play on such a system that he may save or win the game. If the player were strong in trumps he would keep his Aces and Kings to bring in his long suit, because the art of the game does not consist in making Aces and Kings; any one can do that. The good player calculates the Aces and Kings are able to take care of themselves. His object is to give the smaller cards an increased value by enabling them to win tricks. The first card led will often tell whether the play is from weakness or strength. If you play for game play boldly, and to save the game be cautious. A good partner will know what you are trying to do before many cards are played, and he will act accordingly; he will as it were feel what you are trying for. Some people call the process reading, and a little attention will show how easy it is to acquire this art. For this purpose make your game as simple as possible. Play straight. Never play a false card until you have obtained the confidence of your partner. Do not let your partner, if a young player, have any unnecessary difficulty. Thus the 10's and 9's are very puzzling cards. Never lead one of these when the other would mark more distinctly what you have. Thus the 10 is the right lead from King, Knave, 10. Lead the 10 from this combination only. From King, Queen, Knave, 10, and one other, the 10 is still the right card, but it is better to lead the Knave in this position. The Knave, observe, is the right card to lead from King, Queen, Knave, and two others. The moment the Knave comes from your partner's hand, and you have neither a King nor Queen in your hand, and the Knave is won with the Ace, you are tolerably sure that the lead is from King, Queen, Knave, and two others, and that the remainder of the cards we have named, not played, are in your partner's hand. You have learnt this much, but you don't know where the 10 is. The 10, to our mind, is of little importance. The leader can win the next trick with it, and you find out about the 10 in ample time, because the 10 is of no consequence until the King and Queen are gone. By thus playing you make it easier for your partner without any damage to yourself. The young players should always try to observe this point. Is A, B, or C playing a strong or weak game? A very little attention will give this information, and if he can manage to judge with accuracy one hand, he can then try two hands, and afterwards all three; or he can mark out one that he sees is strong, and endeavour to guard against that hand. Thus, if from the fall of the cards you find A is playing a strong game, and you have reason to believe he has nothing in clubs never mind about your clubs. Do all you can to protect the two plain suits which you have most to fear. All this comes perhaps later on, and we desire to impress on any pupil of ours not to try for too much. Thus, if at starting you have a difficulty in remembering the cards as they fall below a 10, do not try to remember the 9's until you are certain of yourself as to the 10's, or until you can tell by the leads what the player must have led from. A thorough mastery of the leads, and a little practice in drawing inferences will soon relieve you from this difficulty, and this can be practised whilst you are looking on as well as when you are playing. Practice drawing inferences at other people's expense, not to the costs of yourself and partner.

If a second player, more experienced than yourself, is looking on, compare notes, and see what inferences he drew from the same circumstances that you had before you. Knowledge is of little value unless strictly accurate. If you begin by trying to recollect the number of trumps out (as you should), and follow this up by endeavouring to remember the value of the trumps out, your knowledge will not help you unless you are sure you are right. The moment your mind becomes in doubt other doubts arise, and you will get muddled. Try therefore only to carry so much information as you can retain accurately, and this will be of more value than three times the amount of information only half mastered.

Avoid changing your suits. Stick to your text. Young players with weak hands are always chopping and changing about, and the effect of this is to ruin their partner's strength. By being constant to one suit (your longest), you do the least harm, because that suit cannot be established against you. Memory is a bugbear to young Whist players: it is a difficulty like all other difficulties that vanish if met half way. Reason, at Whist, supplies a substitute for memory, and habit is next door to nature; but with the Whist habitué there are aids to memory to which we have already referred: 1st, in the knowledge of what a good player has led

from, whether originally he led from a 3, 4, or 5 suit; whether he returned the higher or lower card of the suit, and so on. If the hand is read, the difficulty as to memory is very seldom of any consequence. But the little memory that is necessary is assisted by calling to mind the number of the suit that you possessed originally.

Attend to the idiosyncrasies of your players. If your partner will trump a Knave, if led originally, and he has not one, don't lead a Knave. If he has the Ace, and will not put it on your Knave, don't lead the Knave. Lead King, and then your smallest. Never go for a crotchet because the books say it is right. Don't play by any book rule if your partner is not a book player, a matter you will find out the first hand. Play with intelligence; do not try to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Use the materials you have, and do not cry for what you have not. Admit that cards can beat their makers, but rest assured it is your duty to make the most of those possessions the gods provide for you, and in the long run you will have your share of this world's luck.

WHIST ANECDOTES IN VERSE.

No. IV.

FOUR friends, at their rubber, I saw,
One dreary and cold winter's day;
Who *two* were, don't matter a straw—
Of the *others* I've something to say.
I can't tell their names, I must own,
But 'twill save us a good deal of bother,
To let "What's-his-name" stand for the one,
And "Thingumbob" do for the other.

The points were "Half-sovereigns and *twos*,"
Game and game and 4-all was the score;
It simply depended on whose
Was the odd trick—for then all was o'er.
"What's-his-name" was the third one to play,
He'd five tricks—having picked up the few last,
Then he made a "finesse" quite "*outré*,"
And succeeded in winning the two last.

"You've won, 'tis true," Thingumbob said;
"But you *know* the game *should* have been ours,
For nothing," he cried, as he paid,
"Could justify such play as yours."
"I'll bet you a sovereign on that—
Or five, if you say you prefer it."
"Done, with you!" came the answer, quite pat,
"And to 'Cavendish' let us refer it."

"Your reason you'll have to assign,
If *he* says, it is good, you're the winner;
If not, why the ten pounds are mine."
"Right," said What's-his-name; "now, let's have dinner."
"But, to save any *mis*takes, you know,
Ere we part let's deposit our *stakes* here;
Then we'll lodge a few more *steaks* below,
With the grand "Chasseur" sauce they make here."
Next day worthy Cavendish came,
And met the four friends as requested;
They told him the state of the game,
And asked him the question suggested.
"Finessers like that must be fools,"
Replied the great man, with a sneer;
"You should purchase *my* book of the rules—
Comprehensive—compact—and not dear."

"My decision is—What's-his-name loses,
Unless he can show any cause
Why he plays his cards just as *he* chooses,
To the utter contempt of the laws!"
Cried What's-his-name, "Pay, and look pleasant;
My cause you'll at once understand;"
Then he said, 'mid the roars of all present,
"I looked over Thingumbob's hand!"

St. James's, 1871. V. R.

DOUBLE DUMMY HAND.

No. LIV. Played at the Westminster Chess Club, May, 1871. A and B Mr. A. P. BELAIEFF; X and Z Mr. W.

A's HAND.—H A, Kv; D A, Q; S Q, 8, 7; C Kv, 10, 9, 8, 7, 3.

B's HAND.—H 10, 7, 4; D Kg, Kv, 3; S Kg, 10, 4, 2; C A, Q, 6.

X's HAND.—H 6, 5, 4; D 10, 8, 7, 6, 5; S A, Kv, 9, 5; C 4.

Z's HAND.—H Kg, Q, 9, 8, 2; D, 9, 4, 2; S, 6, 3; C Kg, 5, 2.

D trumps. A to lead, and A and B to get two by cards.

PAPERS RECEIVED.

Index 20th and 27th May; 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th June; and 1st and 8th July; *New Berlin Schachzeitung; Chess Player's Quarterly Chronicle* June; *Schachzeitung Leipzig* May, June, and July; *Dubuque Chess Journal* June and July; *Gentleman's Journal* May, June, July and August; *Hartford Weekly Times, Connecticut*, 10th and 17th June; *European Mail* 17th July; *Australasian* 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th April; 13th and 20th May; *Adelaide Observer* 22nd and 29th April; 6th, 13th, and 20th May; *Leader* 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd April; 6th, 13th, and 20th May; *Land and Water* weekly; *New York Clipper* 1st and 15th July.

CROQUET.

THE meeting of the Grand National Croquet Club at Aldershot was not only a great success, but was most important to the game, as shewing that the highest degree of science is quite compatible with the greatest good humour, and that the game, in spite of the reiterated attempts of a journal of note to keep up an old quarrel, is one to which no sort of quarrelling is a necessary adjunct. The tournament was by far the best that has yet been held, whether regarded as a matter of skill, or as an agreeable re-union. The ground, which comprises a space of nearly 16 acres, pleasantly sheltered by groves of birch and pine, was skilfully laid out for Croquet, and marquees were placed in convenient spots, so that the spectators might look on in spite of wind or rain—for, as is well known, neither wind nor rain will prevent Croquet players from continuing with this most fascinating of games. Throughout the time of the tournament upwards of a thousand visitors were present, and for those to whom Croquet is yet a sealed book, there was the attraction of the best music the camp could afford, and the beauty of the scene itself, which, in the intervals of sunshine, presented the gayest appearance. The general management was most ably carried out by the Central Committee, under the presidency of Major-General Lysons, the questions referring to the play being wisely left to the members of the committee of the Grand National Croquet Club. The skill shewn by the players was equal to the occasion; Mrs. Holmes, Miss Evans, Miss Hume Middlemas distinguishing themselves on the part of the ladies; and Mr. Lillie, Mr. Whitmore, Mr. Black, and Capt. Bathe on the part of the gentlemen. Mr. Whitmore had to give a bisque to his opponents, who all of them declined, even when accepting this advantage, to meet him with hoops of the match size. He defeated all his antagonists up to Mr. Lillie, against whom even with these tremendous odds he made a hard fight. Mr. Black in the break prize accomplished the extraordinary feat of making 137 points, and from his style and accuracy we should say that he bids fair to be one of the leading players in the Grand National Club. Miss Hume Middlemas, on the part of the ladies, appeared to us to play in the highest style, but with so much haste as to mar the effect of good play. Mrs. Holmes, without so much accuracy or finished style, threw away no chances, and played with such steadiness and care that it was evident from the first that she would probably carry off the first prize. Some very handsome prizes were given, amounting to over forty pounds, which were presented at the close of the meeting by Lady Hope Grant. Some minor prizes were also given by the Grand National Croquet Club for competition amongst the members of the Aldershot Club. We subjoin the score:—

PARTNER PRIZES.

1ST ROUND.—Mr. Helme and Mrs. Williams beat Mr. Whitmore and Miss F. Wilby, Miss Evans and Miss Jones beat Mr. A. Muntz and Mrs. Maunsell, Mr. Black and Mrs. Holmes beat Captain Bathe and Miss Wilby, Mr. Lillie and Miss Middlemass beat Mr. Baker and Mrs. Hallowes, Captain Hallowes and Miss F. Jackson beat Captain Williams and Miss Jackson.

2ND ROUND.—Miss Evans and Miss Jones beat Mr. Helme and Miss Williams, Mr. Black and Mrs. Holmes beat Mr. Lillie and Miss Middlemass, Captain Hallowes and Miss F. Jackson a bye.

3RD ROUND.—Miss Evans and Miss Jones beat Captain Hallowes and Miss F. Jackson, Mr. Black and Mrs. Holmes a bye.

4TH ROUND.—Mr. Black and Mrs. Holmes beat Miss Evans and Miss Jones.

LADIES' MATCHES.

1ST ROUND.—Miss Middlemass beat Miss F. Jackson, Mrs. Holmes beat Miss Jones, Miss Warre beat Miss Jackson, Miss Noble beat Miss Wilby, Miss Hitchcock beat Mrs. Williams.

2ND ROUND.—Mrs. Holmes beat Miss Middlemass, Miss Noble beat Miss Warre, Miss Hitchcock a bye.

3RD ROUND.—Mrs. Holmes beat Miss Hitchcock, Miss Noble a bye.

4TH ROUND.—Mrs. Holmes beat Miss Noble and won.

GENTLEMENS' MATCHES.

1ST ROUND.—Mr. Muntz beat Captain Bathe, Mr. Lillie beat Mr. Joad, Mr. Whitmore beat Mr. Willoughby, Mr. Black beat Captain Tyler, Mr. A. Muntz beat Mr. Helme.

2ND ROUND.—Mr. Lillie beat Mr. Muntz, Mr. Whitmore beat Mr. Black, Mr. A. Muntz a bye.

3RD ROUND.—Mr. Whitmore beat Mr. A. Muntz.

4TH ROUND.—Mr. Lillie beat Mr. Whitmore.

PRIZE MEETING OF THE WORTHING CROQUET CLUB.

I. Admiral Hargood and Miss Podmore beat Miss Hargood, and Miss M. Penfold, Mrs. Joad and Mrs. Safe beat Mrs. W. J. Harris and Mrs. Thomas, Mr. T. Digby-Raikes and Miss E. Remanes beat Mrs. Lucas and Miss Remanes, Mr. Safe and Miss Harris beat Capt. Warren and Miss Ada Stephenson, Colonel Raikes, C.B., and Mr. Brandreth beat Mr. Lucas and Miss L. Wickham.

II. Mrs. Joad and Mrs. Safe beat Admiral Hargood and Miss Podmore, Mr. Safe and Miss Harris beat Mr. T. Digby-Raikes and Miss E. Remanes, Colonel Raikes, C.B., and Mr. Brandreth (a bye).

III. Mrs. Joad and Mrs. Safe beat Colonel Raikes, C.B., and Mr. Brandreth, Mr. Safe and Miss Harris (a bye).

IV. Mr. Safe and Miss Harris beat Mrs. Joad and Mrs. Safe.

ALL ENGLAND CROQUET CLUB TOURNAMENT.

THIS meeting was held at Wimbledon on the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th ult. The weather was bad, and the attendance small. The following is the score of the Ladies' and Gentlemen's Championship :—

LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP.

I.—Mrs. Walsh beat Mrs. Joad, Mrs. Pearson beat Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Holmes beat Mrs. Fry, Miss Sanger (a bye).

II.—Mrs. Walsh beat Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Holmes beat Miss Sanger.

III.—Mrs. Walsh beat Mrs. Holmes.

ALL COMERS.

I.—Mr. Stevens beat Mr. D. I. Heath, Mr. Jas. D. Heath beat Mr. H. Jones, Mr. Law beat Dr. Murray, Mr. Lillie w.o.; Gen. Stannus (abs.), Mr. Pearson beat Mr. J. A. Walter, Major Lane beat Mr. Joad, Mr. Black beat Mr. Helme, Mr. Macfie w.o.; Mr. G. N. Taylor (abs.), Mr. Maycock beat Mr. H. R. Dalton, Mr. D. L. Heath (a bye).

II.—Mr. J. Heath beat Mr. Stephens, Mr. Lillie beat Mr. Law, Major Lane beat Mr. Pearson, Mr. Black beat Mr. Macfie, Mr. Maycock beat Mr. D. L. Heath.

III.—Mr. Lillie beat Mr. J. Heath, Mr. Black beat Major Lane, Mr. Maycock (a bye).

IV.—Mr. Lillie beat Mr. Maycock, Mr. Black (a bye).

V.—Mr. Lillie beat Mr. Black.

The business of the meeting was admirably conducted, and the players were punctually at their posts at the appointed time. The play of Mrs. Walsh and Mr. Lillie was all that could be desired. Some complaints have reached us as to the unfairness of the umpires, which we believe to be wholly unfounded; but if such strong partisans as the *Field's* representatives are placed in such responsible posts, and in such delicate positions as judges, their conduct must be open to suspicion—a suspicion we are sure quite without foundation, but which their own good sense ought to tell them would surely lead to misconception and annoyance. We trust this cause of complaint will be removed at the next meeting. We think the cue stroke has received its quietus. It is too disgusting to see women on the wet grass in pursuit of pleasure, regardless of the ills that flesh is heir to; and so far we cannot report that all ladies are able to treat a beating with impunity; on the contrary, they exhibit more temper than men are in the habit of indulging in under similar circumstances. Unfortunately we cannot all gain the first prize, and some ladies have yet to learn this elementary rule. During the meeting a handicap sweepstakes, open to all members of the club, was played. The score was as follows:

1ST ROUND.—Mr. Douglas Heath (receiving one bisque) beat Mr. Willoughby, Mr. Law (giving three bisques and choice of lead) beat Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Holmes (giving choice of lead) beat Mrs. Pearson, Mr. Peel (giving one bisque and choice) beat Mr. D. I. Heath, Miss O. Flight (receiving one bisque and choice) beat Mr. Macfie, Mr. H. Jones (giving choice) beat Mr. Pearson, Mr. James Heath (giving choice) beat Mr. Riky, Mr. Soames (giving three bisques and choice) beat Miss A. Flight.

2ND ROUND.—Mr. Douglas Heath (receiving three bisques) beat Mr. Law, Mr. Peel (giving two bisques and choice) beat Mrs. Holmes, Mr. H. Jones (giving three bisques) beat Miss O. Flight, Mr. James Heath (giving one bisque) beat Mr. Soames.

3RD ROUND.—Mr. Peel (giving three bisques and choice) beat Mr. Douglas Heath, Mr. James Heath (giving choice) beat Mr. H. Jones.

Mr. James Heath and Mr. Peel divided the first and second stakes; Mr. Douglas Heath and Mr. Jones divided the third and fourth.

BREAK PRIZES.

A NEW system of making the break was originated by the Grand National Croquet Club at Aldershot, which is important, as showing the science of the game much better than the plan pursued by the All England Croquet Club. The conditions of the play were as follows:—

"The player to send all four balls through the first hoop and then make the break with any ball he or she may choose. Players may take either one, two, or three turns."

The old system of discarding the next player has become virtually obsolete since the introduction by Mr. Whitmore of the new styles of play, which go by the name of the "line" game, and the "pivouetting" game. In all prizes offered for the best break we think the smallest size of hoop should be strictly adhered to.

REVISION OF THE LAWS OF CROQUET.

AN assertion was made in the *Field* of the 15th ult. that the members of the G. N. C. C. were engaged in drawing up a new code of laws, which was so little in accordance with fact that this journal has wisely seen fit to withdraw it. A sort of offer has been made to the secretaries of clubs, that if they will entirely give up their power over the Conference laws, and allow the future revision to remain entirely in the hands of the All England Croquet Club, that in reward for this abrogation of their rights they shall be admitted to the All England Croquet Club as honorary members. The secretaries are hardly likely to accept such conditions as these, and to do so would simply be to undo all that has hitherto been done to secure a good authoritative code. The inability of any one or two clubs to deal with the question has been well illustrated by the revision

of 1871. So much ignorance, wordiness, and confusion was never displayed in any laws for a game before. We are therefore confident that no secretaries will be found to barter away the position they hold for the mess of pottage now offered. The secretaries stand in this light—that they are trustees for the whole body of Croquet players, who are ready to accept a code of rules which comes with their authority, but no other. There can be no objection to a standing committee being formed, after the next revision, to deal with any questions that may arise in the future; but such a committee can only have power if directly nominated by the Conference. And even in this case it would be unwise of the secretaries to hand over their full power to such a body. There ought to be some recognised means of calling together the Conference, in case such a committee should not show sufficient ability to deal with the required changes. This, we think, might be done annually by voting papers. A committee having been once formed, with power to fill up vacancies in its own number, the question might be sent round at the close of each season as to whether the secretaries were content with the labours of the committee, and if not, the revision might be reassumed by the Conference. The first thing however, to satisfy all minds, is to get the secretaries together. And the suggestion made by the Grand National Croquet Club that no single club should be represented by more than one delegate will be, if adopted, without doubt, the greatest possible security against any special fancies of individual clubs being forced upon the Croquet world against its will. In the late self-appointed committee to revise the rules the cue stroke was introduced by the members of the All England Croquet Club. It has been found necessary to withdraw this rule in the middle of the season. With respect to the Grand National and All England Clubs we can see no good in allowing both clubs to be represented by the whole of their committees.

DRAMATIC NOTES.

THE last two months have not witnessed any important addition to dramatic literature. A revised farce for Mr. Sothern, at the Haymarket, and an Irish Drama by Mr. Falconer, put together from portions of his previous works, at the Princesses, are the only novelties at the larger houses. The old glories of the Adelphi appear to be in a prosperous state of revival, if we may judge from the advertisements, and the Queen's still exhibits Mrs. Rousby at the stake. A great many other theatres have closed, or are about to close their doors, and it is to be feared that the season is ending in an unprofitable manner for managers, despite the fact that London has been crowded with visitors, and that intending tourists are kept at home by stress of weather. Such novelties as have taken place have occurred at the small theatres, and consist of a comedy of slight texture, by Dr. Marston, a comedietta of texture still slighter, by Mr. Albery, and a one-act piece of no particular order by Mr. Theyre Smith, which cannot be said to contain any plot at all. Whatever may have been the merits of *Lamed for Life*, as Dr. Marston calls his play, it was an unfortunate selection to choose the Royalty theatre as the scene of its production. Though we can call to mind many pieces of more than average merit produced at this theatre since its re-christening, few of them have enjoyed a long run. Popular favour does not attach itself to Royalty comedy, though it may do to Royalty burlesque. Mr. Albery's new play, *Tweedie's Rights*, seems to have been hastily produced at the Vaudeville, to fill up the gap caused by the unintelligible departure of the best part of the company from London. It belongs to that class so common to every theatre which possesses a low comedian who prides himself on being able to act Robsonian parts, and in its leading features may rank with *Daddy Hardacre*, *Dearer than Life*, *Milky White*, and others. But Mr. Albery, who seems to have an ingrained vein of coarseness running through his mind, and who is probably well read in the dramatists of the Restoration, cannot compose even a domestic drama without introducing a number of allusions offensive at once to persons moral or religious. If Mr. Albery wishes to bring worse repute on the stage in these critical times, or if he thinks that persons moral or religious have no business within the walls of a theatre, his line of conduct is easily understood; but we ourselves have that faith in the ultimate good taste of the public, that we think the only man likely to be damaged is Mr. Albery himself, whose reputation, not yet quite firmly fixed, will suffer. In the play under notice the incongruous ornamentation of 17th century dialogue on a structure of 19th century domestic drama, must strike most people as being out of place, and the piece is therefore not so good as the *Two Thorns*, where plot and dialogue harmonized together, and were equally objectionable. Mr. Theyre Smith's *Which is Which*, well acted, and well produced, at the Court Theatre, is hardly an advance on *Uncle's Will*, as he has crowded his limited canvass with too many figures. If he were to dispense with all the characters, save the artist and one lady visitor, with the old woman thrown in for the sake of propriety, he would have given us a livelier play, and the good things, not numerous enough for six talkers, would have been concentrated in the artist and his sitter. The plot, too, is of a very venerable age, and makes us fear that Mr. Smith's staying powers will not carry him through a comedy of three acts.

This is a barren record with which to wind up a memorable season. A season which is memorable for the visit of the Comèdie Française, and the sanguine anticipations and discussions, founded on that visit,

which have taken place on the proposition for a national theatre in this country; and a season memorable, as we believe, for the lack of support which has attended the theatres. It would be interesting to discover whether the managers of the Princesses, the St. James's, the Strand, the Royalty, the Globe, the Lyceum, the Holborn, and one or two more, are satisfied with the financial results of the last six months; and whether the remainder, whose receipts may have been better, are not disappointed. And such, we believe, are the expenses and the jobbery connected with theatrical management, that a manager cannot see much profit in anything short of a crowded house. A well-managed theatre ought certainly to pay its expenses and leave a margin of profit, however small, with its benches half full; but we doubt whether this can be said of one. In this, as in some other matters, we may learn a lesson from the French. The Opera Comique was never very full during the visit of the Comèdie Française, and was occasionally very empty; and yet it is said that they returned to Paris with large profits. The high prices could not alone have accounted for this, and we must look to the absence of long advertisements, posters, and published opinions of the Press, for a partial explanation. Our English managers spend immense sums in every possible form of advertisement; they give away shoals of orders until it is a fixed article of faith with some playgoers not to visit a theatre without a free admission, which they are pretty sure of obtaining at some time or other. The mysterious being known as the Acting Manager is also a very expensive luxury. He disburses the free admissions, which cost him nothing, to people of whose names he carefully preserves a list, to the end that he may make them subscribe towards his annual benefit; and it is said that some of these gentry realise large sums of money, whilst their employers become bankrupt. The system of benefits is a scandal, as absurd as it is degrading to the man who takes it. We can understand that a starving actor, or a family of orphans, or even the Dramatic College, should have a benefit; but it is ridiculous for a prosperous and popular performer, such as Mr. Toole or Mr. Sothern, to come forward as a beggar on the public patronage. If either of these gentlemen should be starring in the provinces, he takes a benefit in every town he visits, and so has some forty or fifty benefits in the year. Actors are paid, and the majority are paid well, for the work they do, and, to use a vulgar word, it is mere "cadging" to canvass their friends for money. These, and many other things that might be mentioned, stand in the way of managers' profits. At least half of their difficulties, however, are of their own creating, and a little combined action would overcome them—but combined action is the last thing that is likely to happen.

The visit of the French comedians has had its uses, and perhaps the most important is the impetus it has given to an idea for promoting a national theatre. At the *déjeuner* at the Crystal Palace, and at the dinner of the Theatrical Fund on the following Monday, this subject was largely touched upon, and it has since been discussed in various places and journals. That we shall obtain a national theatre with State aid is extremely unlikely, and under the present Government impossible, even should Lords Granville and Dufferin foster the movement; but the latter nobleman took care to impress on his hearers at the English dinner the folly of expecting anything of the kind, and indulged in vague aspirations after individual benevolence. The Government then being found of no use, the eyes of enthusiastic journalists are directed to "disinterested capitalists." These rare birds being secured, a theatre is to be bought, a company is to be selected, who would themselves fill up vacancies that might occur, would receive pensions, and manage their own affairs under one independent authority, who should not be an actor. This proposal, which receives the sanction of Almaviva, would be very nice, if capitalists sufficiently disinterested could be obtained to give their money, and have no voice whatever in the management of affairs; unless, indeed, they are to select the original company, for that point is not sufficiently clear. Mr. Buckstone, who is quite satisfied with the present state of things, and makes himself very merry over these projects, points with triumph to the mis-management and confusion which reigned at Drury Lane when it was directed by a committee of gentlemen and authors. But there is no reason why the experiment should not be tried again, with the advantage of past experience and more open criticism to control it; and Mr. Buckstone's concern, perhaps, proceeds somewhat from his tender regard to vested interests. That a reform in the management of theatres is urgently needed cannot be doubted after a perusal of Mr. Alfred Wigan's speeches at both dinners. That delivered at the meeting of the Theatrical Fund was remarkably out-spoken without being bitter. He admitted the difficulties of managers from their point of view, but gave them also some advice worth following. He deprecated too much puffing, too much advertising, and the job system of engaging actors, by which a permanent company is never obtained. Nor did he omit some words of wisdom to the actors themselves, of whose mission he naturally and properly has an elevated view. Altogether it was a remarkable speech, and coming from the mouth of an actor, was of more value to his hearers and brother actors than ten years copies of the fulsome nonsense of the *Era*. Mr. Wigan did not say much on this occasion about a national theatre, though he threw out a hint to Lord Granville at the Crystal Palace. It would be an aid to laying down some definite plan if the opinion of a number of managers, and those of the rank and file in the profession, could be obtained on the matter. If we are to believe Mr. Buckstone, the whole affair is nonsense, and we are to sit quietly with perfect trust in whatever food the present race of managers choose to give us. Even Mr. Wigan was obliged to say that managers could not lead, but must follow the public taste; though, as he justly observed, they very often mistake it. It is an incontestable fact that we are at present at the mercy of managers. Those of the Buckstone type give us the same men year after year, though they may have become as unfit for acting as, let

us say, Mr. Romer; those of the newer and more commercial type exchange their staff at the end of six months, when they are perhaps advancing in capacity, for others who will cost them less. That neither of these systems are invariably or even usually successful is we think evident from the experience of the present season. Nobody will regret the collapse of the Globe or the Holborn Theatre, although the former at least started under the present management with the applause of the press. Should one or two more establishments come to the same untimely end the chances of a vigorous reform would be greatly improved.

One exception to either type of manager should be noted—Mr. Hollingshead; who is certainly the most versatile director of this generation, and who alters the tenor of the entertainments of the Gaiety once a month, advertises that he intends to commence the new era by a series of performances of the legitimate drama. We should not be surprised were Mr. Hollingshead to revive the representation of "moralities," and his company is perhaps better suited for the performance of these than of the legitimate drama; but there is no reason why the experiment should not be tried. By a lucky coincidence, the arrival of Mr. Walter Montgomery from Australia happens at the same time that Mr. Hollingshead's resolution is taken. We repeat that we wish him success, though we are not particularly hopeful, and are rather inclined to echo Dr. Vellere's recent advertisement to the "Patrons of the Modern Legitimate Drama.—No news yet!"

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CHESS.

J. W.—It was the *Mercury*. We are sorry to have troubled you, and did not mean to accuse you of, but to account for our own, obtuseness.

H. W.—You ask us why a Pawn advanced to the 8th square should be called a Queen? Do you put the question for information, or as a conundrum?

E. F.—Favour received. Thanks.

C. P. (Bermondsey).—We are much obliged for your attention.

J. A. H. (Edinburgh).—Thanks for the Problem, which is very neatly constructed. It shall appear next month.

V. G.—The diagrams have been forwarded to the address given, as requested.

EUREKA.—Q 6th undoubtedly.

F. C. C.—Few are so considerate as you have been; indeed, some persons enjoy laughter as they enjoy wine—only at other people's expense.

WHIST.

DUNCE.—We play 3d. points. I lost 7 points, and paid C 2s. C lost 3 points, and tendered 6d. and a 3d. piece. Am I bound to take it?—*Ans.* Take ye 9d., and avoid your friend, or sue for the 3d. previously overpaid. The 3d. was money had and received for your use.

A. X.—A claims the trick. B claims the trick. What is to be done?—*Ans.* If you are the stronger, take it. This is the law—

> The good old rule, the simple plan,
> That he should take who has the power;
> And he should keep who can.

The doctrine was out of vogue in this country since the time of Robin Hood. The Sheffield knife-grinders re-introduced the system, Messrs Beales, Odger and Co. promptly did likewise, and Mr Gladstone has now followed suit. If the law is not on your side, so much the worse for the law. If you cannot get your own way by process of law, still *get it*. Never acknowledge principles except when they are in your favour. At Whist, follow the popular system; there must be inconveniences in any code. Therefore take that system which is most convenient to yourself. When there is a doubt, take the benefit of it. This is the Liberal creed, and you cannot do better than follow so eminent an authority as Mr Gladstone, particularly as all the Liberal papers contend that any illegality committed by the stronger party must be right.

L. L.—Yes. V. R.'s Stories 2 and 3, in our last Number, can be sung—No. 2 to the air of "The Dey of Algiers," and No. 3 to "All my eye and Betty Martin, O."

B. E.—If on Kv led a good player puts on the Q he cannot have Ace Q simply, or Ace Q and another or others. He must have left (1) cards all smaller than the Kv, (2) Kg and another or others, (3) Ace Kg and another or others. There is no other inference that you can draw.

A. K. B.—W., to my left, shuffles the cards, and hands them to me to deal. S. F., to my right, after I have shuffled, insists on shuffling. Please explain the law. *Ans.* Each player has a right to shuffle once. S. F. was simply exercising that right. You, as dealer, have the right to shuffle last, so that after S. F. had shuffled you shuffle again. You, therefore, can in this instance shuffle twice.

HAND 99.—Turn up card S 6, not S 7.

PIQUET.

H. P. (1).—Is it or is it not etiquette at Piquet for younger hand to draw the elder player's attention to a wrong point, or call before allowing him to play? *Ans.* (1) To the abstract question we say, No! But to give a satisfactory solution of your difficulty we should prefer having the case as it occurred, because we can imagine many cases where we should rectify an error, although in law we might not be bound to do so. Thus, if your adversary claimed 14 Kings, and you had 2 Kings in your hand and no Queen, we should assume the claim was a slip of the tongue and call his attention to it on the supposition that he meant 14 Queens.—(2) Is there any book which, being considered an authority, explains the game and gives the rules of Piquet except Bohn's Handbook of Games? *Ans.* (2) There is no book of any authority on the laws of Piquet other than the one to which you refer. A good work on the subject is much required, and we have pressed Cavendish to bring one out, but hitherto without effect.

A. W.—It would be a convenience if Piquet cards had 4 sixes and 4 threes for marking. Perhaps some of our card makers will comply with this suggestion, and wrap up such extra cards with the Piquet packs.

ÉCARTÉ.

M.—I propose. My adversary refuses. I make the King, and win all 5 tricks. Do I score 3 or 5?—*Ans.* The point seems to be omitted by both Bohn and Cavendish. It is a well understood rule at Ecarté, that a player can never score more than 3. You score 1 for the King, and 2 for the vole. If you had only got 3 tricks, your score would have been the same. Therefore you obtain no benefit, in this instance, by getting the vole. The advantage you gain by your adversary refusing to give you cards only arises when you get the point—i.e, the 3 tricks. Probably Cavendish will make a note of this, and put the matter *plainly* in the next edition of his laws.

The Westminster Papers.

1st SEPTEMBER 1871.

THE CHESS WORLD.

"The whisperings of our petty burgh."

It is a curious fact that no association of Chess players can exist in this country for any lengthened period without some element of discord being introduced to retard its development or hasten its dissolution.

In 1850 Mr. Staunton, having got the idea of a Chess Tournament from a Dublin correspondent of the *Chess Players' Chronicle*, forthwith adopted it as his own, and thereupon, rather than permit his contemporaries to influence the management of the proposed congress in any way, originated the great feud which has existed since that time between every Chess player in Great Britain and himself. Again, while doing full justice to the management of the Tournament of 1862—and particularly to Messrs. Medley and Lowenthal, whose labours in connection with the book of that Congress have never been fairly acknowledged—it is impossible to forget that ridiculous muddle, the award of the problem prizes, and the utter disgust of every competitor save the lucky individuals to whom the prizes eventually fell. To point our moral we have only to refer to the proceedings at Malvern last month, threatening to result in the secession of Mr. Skipworth from the Association, which owes its success to his exertions during the last five or six years. The cause of Mr. Skipworth's dissatisfaction was a resolution of the members to the effect that the publication of the games should *not* be confided exclusively to the *Quarterly Chronicle*. It is impossible to conceive any ground of quarrel more trivial than this. But, if Mr. Skipworth placed such a price on his services as a right to the exclusive publication of the games, we are inclined to think the Association would not have made a bad bargain by accepting his terms. A full report of the meeting will be found in another part of this number. We may remark here, however, that this Malvern assembly of Chess players will be chiefly memorable as being the occasion of an exhibition of that enterprise which spares not expense nor trouble so characteristic of the British press in our day.

Two "specials" from the metropolis blazed upon the astonished "yokels" of Malvern to report the proceedings for our contemporaries the *Field* and *Land and Water*. The meteor-like appearance of the gentleman representing the first-named paper, who arrived at noon and left in the afternoon, must have been very effective, from a merely spectacular point of view; while the secretiveness displayed by the representative of the latter—whose arrival or departure does not seem to have been observed by any one—indicates a modesty, not to say bashfulness, of demeanour which is not always the characteristic of the "special correspondent."

A match between the City of London and the Bury St. Edmunds Chess Clubs is being arranged, to be played in London about the end of September, ten players on each side. The Club of Bury St. Edmunds, since its formation, has contested several matches, and obtained the victory over such strong Clubs as Norwich, Colchester, &c., nevertheless it will be stipulated that neither Steinitz, Wisker, nor Potter shall play in this match on the part of the City.

The match by telegraph between the players of Sydney and Adelaide, referred to in our last number, was, after several adjournments, brought to a conclusion on the 2nd of June last. Twelve players, six on each side, took part in the contest, and in the result Sydney won five games, Adelaide one, and one game was drawn. The following is the detailed score:—

Sydney.	Won	Lost	Drawn	Adelaide.	Won	Lost	Drawn
F. J. Gibbes	1	0	0	R. M. Steele	0	1	0
Rev. J. Pendril	1	0	0	John Mann	0	1	0
R. Smith	0	0	1	W. J. Fullurton	0	0	1
C. G. Heydon	1	0	0	R. B. Hale	0	1	0
M. Russell	1	0	0	W. D. Scott	0	1	0
T. J. Ryan	1	0	0	S. Tyrrell	0	1	0
J. McRae	0	1	0	A. H. Beyer	1	0	0
Total	5	1	1	Total	1	5	1

The remarks appended and the accompanying game and notes are taken from the *Town and Country Journal*, of Sydney.

The distance by wire between Sydney and Adelaide is 1,500 miles, the communication being entirely by land lines. In several instances replies were received from Adelaide in three minutes after transmission of the Sydney moves, and we believe that instances occurred of some replies being received in two minutes. The longest game, that between Messrs. Russell and Scott, lasted about twenty hours, after allowing for all adjournments; of this time only two hours and a-half were consumed by Mr. Russell, and as the limit allowed to his opponent was only seven hours and a-half, at least ten hours must have been expended in the process of telegraphing the moves.

We are without particulars of the time taken by the Adelaide players over their games, except that in Mr. Russell's game. When he had only used one hour and a-half, his opponent, Mr. Scott, had consumed about four hours and a-half.

Although the Adelaide men were thus beaten by a large majority of games, it is equally satisfactory to victors and vanquished to reflect that the games were most stubbornly contested on both sides, and prolonged to unusual lengths; and that four of the games terminated in "pawn" endings.

SYDNEY.	ADELAIDE.
WHITE (MR. GIBBES.)	BLACK (MR. STEELE.)

Irregular Opening.

1 P to Q B 4	1 P to K 4
2 Q Kt to B 3	2 P to K B 4
3 P to K 3	3 K Kt to B 3
4 P to Q 4	4 P to K 5
5 Kt to R 3	5 B to Kt 5
6 B to Q 2	6 B takes Kt
7 B takes B	7 Castles
8 B to K 2	8 P to Q 4
9 Castles	9 P to B 3
10 Q to Kt 3	10 K to R sq
11 Q R to Q B sq (a)	11 Q Kt to Q 2 (b)
12 Kt to K B 4 (c)	12 Kt to Q Kt 3
13 Q B to R 5	13 P takes P
14 B takes P	14 K Kt to Q 4 (d)
15 K B takes Kt	15 P takes B
16 R to Q B 5 (e)	16 Q to B 3
17 B takes Kt	17 P takes B
18 Kt takes P	18 B to K 3
19 Q takes P	19 B takes Kt
20 Q takes Q	20 R takes Q
21 R takes B	21 P to K R 3 (f)
22 Q R to Q Kt 5	22 R takes P

At this stage the first adjournment took place.

23 R takes Kt P	23 K R to R 3
24 P to K Kt 3	24 R to Q B 3
25 K R to Q Kt sq	25 K to R 2
26 Q R to Q Kt 5	26 K to Kt 3
27 Q R to Q B 5	27 R to Q 3
28 P to Q Kt 4	28 Q R to R 3
29 P to Q Kt 5	29 Q R to Kt 3
30 K R to Q B sq	30 K to B 3
31 Q R to Q B 6	31 K to K 2
32 Q R takes Q R	32 R takes R
33 R to Q B 7 ch	33 K to B sq
34 R to Q B 5	34 P to Kt 3
35 R to B 6 (g)	35 R takes R

Here the second adjournment ensued.

36 R takes R	36 K to K 2
37 P to Q 5	

And Mr. Steele resigned.

(a) White has opened his game secundum artem, and all his forces are now admirably disposed for action, whilst the Adelaide champion has his Queen's pieces shut up at home.

(b) This was not a good move. He ought to have played Q to Q Kt 3.

(c) Taking prompt advantage of his antagonist's previous error.

(d) Black's game was already one of difficulty, and this move certainly does not improve it.

(e) Mr. Gibbes again adopts the strongest move on the board.

(f) It would have been somewhat better to play P to Kt 3; but the game is lost do what he may.

(g) Mr. Gibbes conducts the end game with remarkable accuracy; after the move in the text, Black must either submit to the loss of all his Pawns, or exchange Rooks.

The time occupied by Mr. Gibbes in this game was 57 min., being about three hours less than he was allowed by the rules of the match.

The following is the official score of the players in the Provincial Challenge Cup Tourney, held at Malvern, August 1871.

	Rev. A. B. Skipworth	Rev. W. Wayte	B. W. Fisher	Rev. A. C. Rowley	Rev. C. E. Ranken	J. Halford	J. Burt	Rev. J. Coker	Rev. W. L. Newham	N. Feddon	Total Score
Rev. A. B. Skipworth	—	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7 (1st Prize)
Rev. W. Wayte ...	1	—	½	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	6½ (2nd Prize)
B. W. Fisher	1	½	—	0	0	½	1	½	1	1	5½ (3rd Prize)
Rev. A. C. Rowley...	0	0	1	—	0	½	1	1	½	1	5
Rev. C. E. Ranken...	0	0	1	1	—	½	0	0	1	1	4½
J. Halford	0	0	½	½	½	—	1	1	1	0	4½
J. Burt	0	1	0	0	1	0	—	1	0	1	4
Rev. J. Coker	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	—	1	1	3
Rev. W. L. Newham	0	0	0	½	0	0	1	0	—	1	2½
N. Feddon	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	—	2

0 signifies Lost. 1 Won. ½ Drawn Games.

CHESS CONGRESS AT MALVERN.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

DEAR SIR,—I had the pleasure of attending the recent Chess Congress at Malvern, and would crave permission to note in your Papers some fugitive impressions that occur to my mind in connection with that festival. Viewed from *any* side, the meeting was a success. Viewed in comparison with the two preceding ones, it was a very marked success. The prizes, attendance, and play were all fairly good. The funds raised by the energetic efforts of the two Local Secretaries *alone*, far exceeded the *combined* amount of many previous years. The place of meeting too was well chosen. After the sunless and smoke-laden atmosphere of Newcastle last year, and the apathetic gloom which, somehow, despite Mr. Ball's hospitable exertions, pervaded the York gathering of the year before, it was a real relief to assemble at a place where the natural surroundings are of so unique a loveliness. Malvern, too, in the centre of the district sacred to Musical Festivals, had a special fitness, from the frequent alliance of the two accomplishments, as the scene selected for a series of Chess tournays the very month before. Through the rare generosity of Dr. Grindrod, a medical gentleman of hydropathic celebrity on the spot, the success of the Congress was very materially furthered. In his Winter Promenade—a miniature Crystal Palace—and beautiful garden-grounds the tournaments were all conducted. His hospitable house was thrown open daily to the Association, and every service that kindness could suggest was proffered with a courtesy not easy to be forgotten. It is a great thing for the Society that the next year's Congress is appointed, at the doctor's generous instance, to be held in the same agreeable locality.

The attendance from the more immediate neighbourhood was not, perhaps, so good as might have reasonably been expected. Probably it will be much better on the next anniversary. Some premature announcements in the original programme as to the value of the prizes, &c., may have partially been the cause; all misapprehension, however, on these points will be obviated for the future, as the organisation of the Association has now been permanently re-constructed, upon a less limited and more satisfactory basis than before.

The *séances* commenced on the evening of Monday, the 7th, and were continued throughout the week, with the necessary hours of intermission, play concluding each day at 11 p.m.

Friday, the 11th, was intended to be a kind of red-letter day in the week's proceedings. The morning was marked by the welcome arrival of Lord Lyttelton, who engaged in play of considerable interest with Mr. Cutler, the liberal patron and President of the Sheffield Club. In the afternoon, a large number of ladies and gentlemen lunched together at the Belle-Vue Hotel, the chair being filled by Lord Lyttelton, who was supported by Mr. Avery of Birmingham, and many other players of influence. Later in the evening an exhibition of blindfold play was commenced by Mr. Wayte and Mr. Wisker, conducting simultaneously four games against the same opponents, and one against each other. Unfortunately, they began at an hour too late to allow of any hope of finishing the games; a serious, though not uncommon, detraction from the interest of these performances.

Visitors of varying celebrity appeared at intervals during the week. On Thursday afternoon we were honoured with the presence of the great master, Mr. Cochrane, who travelled from London through the intense heat to give his countenance to the cause. Much regret was felt at the transience of his visit; a rapid skirmish, which I had the honour of essaying with him, was, I believe the solitary exhibition of his yet unclouded skill. Mr. De Vere likewise, the same day, with meteor-like evanescence flashed upon the scene; returning to town in the evening without engaging in a single fray. Mr. Wisker, of champion fame, was present through the entire week, and, besides winning the first prize in the handicap tournament, volunteered a number of off-hand games with any who had the courage to challenge him.

The occasional appearance of ladies added to the attractions of the room, especially those who laudably essayed (and not without success) to break a lance with foemen of a sterner mould,—thereby relieving, as some one observed, with a sort of "sweetness and light," the solemn seriousness of the more momentous encounters.

I cannot help expressing a hope that Yorkshire and Lancashire will send next year some more representatives of their strength. I cannot forget the many good and pleasant gatherings I have there attended in former years, and I know the Chess spirit of the West Yorkshire Association is still as keen and vigorous as ever. Manchester and Liverpool are classic grounds in relation to Chess, and they certainly ought not to be unrepresented in any general provincial Congress.

Touching the proposed Champion Cup for the Provinces, I am glad to hear that the Rev. J. Owen, whose accomplished play it would be idle to eulogise, is about to dispute the possession of it. And I take this opportunity of urging the alteration of some of the rules of competition for it, especially the one which enacts that the play shall take place in the parish of the holder for the time. This, no doubt, has been the cause of its remaining a year unchallenged in Mr. Skipworth's hands. It surely seems a prime condition that the competition for such a cup should be conducted *in public*, and *in the rooms of some Chess Club*. Let the well-known donor of the cup be consulted on this point, for it cannot be his wish to place any needless obstacle in the way of competing for it.

To conclude this desultory letter, I venture to think that the prospects of the Counties' Chess Association seem now of a very promising character. The unquestioned success of the recent meeting is a good omen for that of next year. The Local Secretaries did their work in all ways well. By the kind efforts of Mr. Fisher, hospitable accommodation was secured for very many of the visitors; and a general feeling exists that the arrangements for next year cannot be entrusted to more efficient hands. Friends and members can, meanwhile, co-operate with good effect by collecting funds for the enlargement of the prizes, and by promoting, in their several circles, an increased interest in the firm establishment of the Association.

I remain, Dear Sir, your obedient servant,

21st August 1871. EDMUND THOROLD.

KEY TO THE CHESS OPENINGS.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

DEAR SIR,—Having been from home for some time, I have only recently perused the *Field* newspaper of 22nd July, containing a review of my "Key to the Chess Openings," alluded to in your Magazine for this month. Allow me to correct some of the inconsistencies and mistakes of the *Field's* article. The reviewer, at the commencement of his notice, accuses me of a "*sudden* resolve" to write a book, while, further on, he alludes to my original design published "some *years ago* in the *Chess Players' Magazine*"!

The reviewer places me among a long list of Chess authors who, he is pleased to say, have failed; but amongst many of them I am happy to be ranked. His allusion to the pecuniary part of the matter is scarcely fair or graceful. It was not "*in justification* of my book" that I mentioned the subject, but simply to show—and not in either "irony or simplicity"—that my object was not to make money, however I might naturally wish to be reimbursed, but to supply a want much felt, viz., the illustration of the Openings by large-sized diagrams—a *précis*, as it were, of the Openings new and old, a popular introduction to the game,—in fact, a *Key*, and not a ponderous work in detail. The book does not profess to be the last, the practical utility of which many fine players very much question. As for my classification and method, I have been much praised for them, and on this head it was hardly wise to accuse me of "wilfully and deliberately going out of my way with *malice prepense* for the purpose of perplexing my readers." I have many faults and failings, but I do not think I have gone mad, which I would be if, in writing a book, I knowingly did my best to mystify and perplex. The whole object of my work was to simplify the study of Chess, in which many good Chess players and able reviewers tell me I have succeeded. The reviewer has not pointed out in what particulars the *ordo* is deficient.

I subdivided the "Irregular Openings," as I thought they required subdivision as much as the "Regular" ones. I am surprised at the reviewer objecting to the names "close games," "miscellaneous regular," &c., such terms being necessary to distinguish the different characters of the Openings.

He finds fault, too, with the arrangement of the sub-variations, inseparable in the treatment of the Openings, and which will ever be difficult to divide, from the very nature of the game, and the numerous combinations and branches necessary to elucidate an Opening. He complains of the English notation. Had I adopted the German one, I would not have sold half the number of copies of the work that are disposed of; and I preferred the notation generally known and adopted in the home countries, and improved on it.

In one sentence the reviewer terms the "young player" an "irreclaimable dullard," while in the next he says "I insult his common sense" by my explanatory remarks. Strange inconsistency! The fact is, I have been told by beginners that I ought to have even gone further in this line, and have given reasons for almost every move,—why one was better than another.

I am accused of not giving "a summary of the noteworthy features" in the respective Openings, with "references to authorities." Why, that is just what I have done. I am charged with only quoting "obsolete" authorities, and of an "affectation of learning and research." Surely there is no affectation in giving a list of the works I quoted from, every one of which I have in my own Chess library, as many of my Chess friends know. Besides wishing to show that I founded my book on no narrow basis of research, custom and etiquette induced me to give a list of the authorities I referred to.

But what is the fact? The "obsolete" authorities I named were but the groundwork of my Key. I drew largely, in addition, from the most recent English magazines, giving even the very pages. I introduced many of the latest novelties, such as Mr. Lord's variation in Philidor's defence, Mr. Fraser's analyses in the Scotch and Bishop's gambits, the latest continuation in Mr. Mortimer's gambit, *cum multis aliis*, together with games from recent matches and congresses of importance, up to 1871. In short, there is scarcely an Opening in which I have not inserted later variations not to be found in the hand-books alluded to, and of striking interest and importance. Are—to give a few examples—the *Westminster Papers* "obsolete"? Is the *York Quarterly Chess Chronicle* "obsolete"? Is Major de Jaenisch's famous article on the K Knight's Opening "obsolete"? Is his clever reply to the New York Chess Editor—one of the ablest letters ever penned—

on the French game, "obsolete"? Are the London and Dublin Cup match games "obsolete," or the Paris and Baden Congresses of ancient date? If they are, what is new? The reviewer finds fault with the "trite and commonplace variations"—why these are the very ones most likely to be met with in actual play, and will be useful for Chessplayers to know, in addition to the novelties.

I am not ignorant of the "progress of Chess theory," as many admit, if *progress* it can be called, when to-morrow's sun may see it all upset by newer variations, in their turn to be pronounced unsound—so unlike is the supposed demonstration of prolonged Chess variations to the hard facts of the exact sciences. I have directly or indirectly alluded to nearly all the modern "authorities" referred to, and last, but not least or less useful, to the recent practical match games of some of the finest modern German, American, British and Irish Chessplayers up to the present day, and even—without intending "affectation"—to the *Theorie und Praxis*, which I hold to be not more infallible than other Chess "authorities."

In a work called *a Key*, why should I be blamed for leaving off at an early period of a variation? That is the professed object of my treatise, to bring the reader to a certain salient point, where strong players diverge and authorities disagree, to call his attention to the early important branches, and explain the character and purport of the Opening, and to observe on the frequency of its adoption, when works in detail can then be consulted, if necessary.

As for the attack of P to K 5 in Evans's gambit, it is seldom played now, being generally considered hazardous and unsound; and P to Q 5 is merely a transposition move, which may be played as well after as before B to Q Kt 2. Many players dislike the move of P to Q 5, as shutting in the K Bishop: see notes in "*Bell's Life*," *passim*. But these are moves of detail, all alluded to by me, but still coming after the *character* of the Opening was shown—the special object of the work, and the peculiar province *of a Key*. As for my "laudation of Mr. Pim's defence" in Evans's gambit, I cannot find it. *Au contraire*, I threw out for consideration certain lines of play for the first player which I thought would tend to strengthen the attack, which, on the whole, I myself prefer as a matter of selection. I think, at the same time, that the alleged weakness—I will not use the words of the reviewer—of Mr. Pim's proposed defence, could scarcely be *proved* in "three lines," or perhaps in ten times three.

The handbooks "counted on the fingers" of the reviewer, are very good in their way, but why they are not held to be "obsolete," and *later* books are, and why works published so far back, and which, from necessity, embody not "modern Chess progress" should be lauded to the skies, puzzles my dull comprehension. Most people, for choice sake, would prefer the later books, as embracing more of the "progress" of theory.

I am surprised at being told that a work called *a Key* is an "ambitious title," such being not, I think, the general acceptation of the term. I have been praised for the modesty of the title.

Were it not for the tone of the review, I would not have noticed it; but I think neither did I deserve it, nor was it warranted from the professed object of my book.

In replying to the objections raised, I am willing to place the review in question on one side, and opposite it the numerous favorable ones I have received from able writers and strong players, and a pile of letters from amateurs, of all shades of Chess strength, telling me that the work is "just what was wanted," "most useful for editors," "well classified and arranged," "singularly free from error," "the best work extant," "invaluable to amateurs," and "when better known will be largely bought up."

I am perfectly satisfied with the pronounced verdict of the British, Irish, and American Chess public, and feel from their spirit of fair play, and their common sense judgment, they will agree with me that the review has overshot its mark,—is unjust and illogical. I do not mean to praise my own book, but I am fortified in my opinion of it by the expressed opinions of others so numerous and competent to judge. It was not my intention (as explained) to publish a large book—it would then have been no longer a "Key"—but I venture, without egotism, to affirm that there are as many Openings, as many noteworthy and modern lines of play, as many important main variations from which others diverge, as could be fairly expected or inserted in a volume of its size, object and designation.

The book has of course, like almost all books, its demerits, but it was launched disinterestedly, and purely in the interests of Chess, not from "affectation," nor "hurriedly,"—one editor telling me it was "long expected,"—but to fill a void, as before stated, and as a friendly effort in the cause of Chess, with which I had been so long associated, which I wished to see spread still more, and amongst whose *devotees* I have made many acquaintances whom I value and respect.

I am almost universally told that the "Key" works admirably in unlocking the *portals* to the "endless labyrinths" of the Openings. Beyond that, Chess theory appears to be, in the majority of instances, completely at sea,—an opinion held by some of the best players.

It is very easy to decry a work in general language, but many have told me that in this instance the shafts of the reviewer in the *Field* are inapplicable and harmless. He might as reasonably have depreciated my little book because it does not contain a chapter on Cricket, or the culture of flax.

I remain, Dear Sir, yours very truly,

24th August 1871. THE AUTHOR OF THE "KEY."

TOURNEY PROBLEMS.

Sequitur Victoria fortis.

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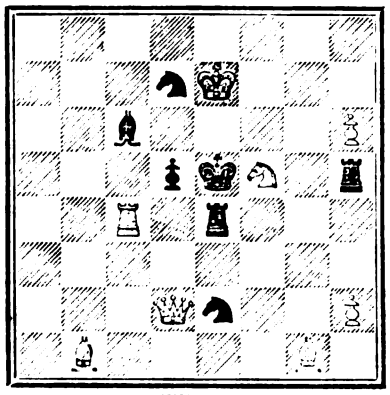
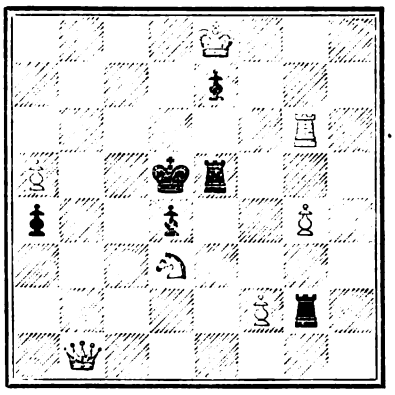


WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

No. XXVIII.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

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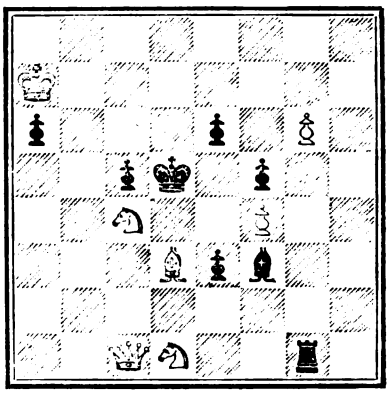

WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

Ex luce lucellum.

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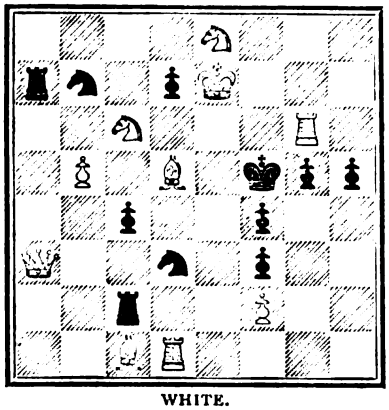

WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

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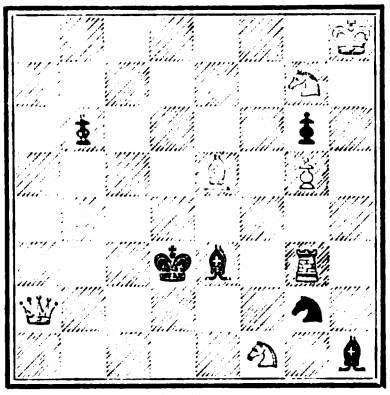

WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

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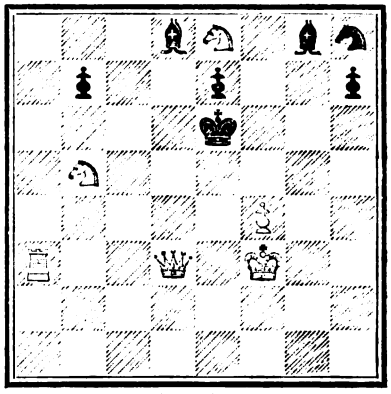


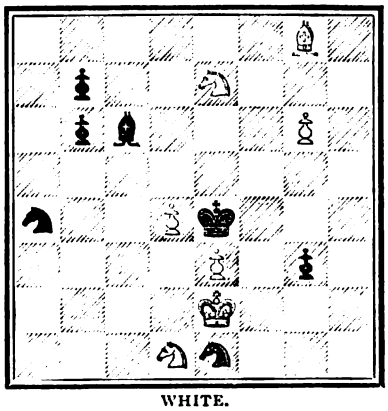
WHITE.
White to playand mate in three moves.

Nil desperandum.

No. XXXIII.—BLACK.

WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. XXXIV.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

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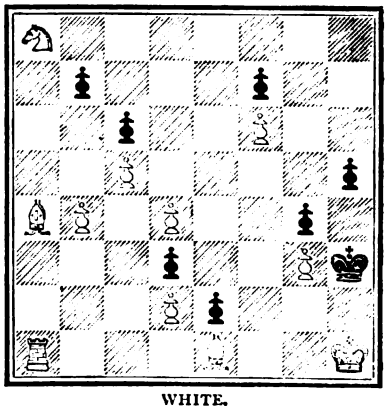


WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

GAMES.

Played at Leipsic, in March last, between Herr Mincwitz, editor of the *Schachzeitung* (Leipsic), and Dr. Schlöemann.

(King's Gambit declined.)

GAME XLI.

White. Herr Mincwitz.	Black. Dr. Schlöemann.	White. Herr Mincwitz.	Black. Dr. Schlöemann.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	15. Kt takes P	15. Q Kt to B 3
2. P to K B 4	2. P to Q 4	16. Kt to K 6 (c)	16. Q to Kt 3
3. K P takes P	3. P takes P	17. Q takes B P ch	17. K to Q 2
4. Kt to K B 3	4. Q takes P	18. Q R to Q sq	18. Kt to K 4
5. Q Kt to B 3	5. Q to Q sq	19. Q to B 6	19. Kt to Kt 5
6. P to Q 4	6. B to Q 3	20. Q to Kt 7 (d)	20. K R to Kt sq (e)
7. B to Kt 5 ch	7. B to Q 2	21. Kt to B 5 ch	21. K to K sq (f)
8. Castles	8. Kt to K 2	22. Q to B 7 ch	22. K to Q sq
9. Kt to K 5	9. B takes B	23. Q to K 6 (g)	23. Kt to K 4 (h)
10. Kt takes B	10. P to Q R 3	24. R to K B 7	24. R to K sq
11. Kt takes B	11. P takes Kt	25. P to Q Kt 4	25. R to Q B sq (i)
12. Kt to Q 3	12. P to K Kt 4	26. Q to Q 7 ch	26. Kt takes Q
13. Q to R 5	13. P to K R 3 (a)	27. Kt to K 7 mate.	
14. B takes P (b)	14. P takes B		

(a) Kt to Kt 3 seems preferable to the move in the text. (b) This sacrifice is more brilliant than sound, but in all these games with Dr. Schlöemann Mr. Mincwitz appears determined to have the attack—by correct play, if possible—if not, to *force* it at all risks. (c) A capital illustration of gaining "time" at Chess. (d) Q to B 4 looks stronger. (e) If Q R to K Kt sq white plays Kt to B 8 ch, and either wins the exchange, the Kt, or draws by perpetual check. (f) White's last move is very pretty and ingenious, but here Black should have taken the Kt with Q, *e. g.* :—

	Q takes Kt
Q takes R	Q takes P ch
R takes Q	

and White cannot hope for more than a drawn game. (g) All this is very finely played by Mr. Mincwitz.

(h) If—

	23. Q to B 2
24. Q takes Q Kt	

Now if 24. R takes Q, 25. R mates, and if Q takes Kt then Q takes R ch, &c., therefore

	24. P takes Kt
25. P takes P ch	25. K to K sq
26. Q to K B 3	And now whether Black plays
	26. Q takes P ch or
26. Kt to Kt 3 or	26. Kt to B 3 White must win.

(i) He has no good move, and this gives White an opening for a pretty finish, which he promptly seizes.

GAME XLII.

Played at the City of London Chess Club.

(Remove White's K Kt.)

White. Mr. Blackburne.	Black. Mr. Younger.	White. Mr. Blackburne.	Black. Mr. Younger.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 3	14. P to Q Kt 4	14. P to K R 3
2. P to Q 4	2. P to Q 4	15. B to B 4	15. B to B 3
3. Q Kt to B 3	3. P to Q B 4	16. R to Q sq	16. K to B sq
4. K P takes P	4. K P takes P	17. P to Q B 4	17. P to Kt 3
5. P takes P	5. P to Q 5	18. P takes P	18. B takes Q Kt P
6. Kt to K 4	6. Q to K 2	19. Q to Kt 2	19. B to B 4
7. B to Kt 5 ch	7. B to Q 2	20. P to Kt 7 ch	20. B takes P
8. Castles (a)	8. B takes B	21. R takes Kt	21. B to Kt 3
9. R to K sq (b)	9. K to Q sq (c)	22. Q to Kt 5	22. P to B 4
10. B to K 5	10. P to B 3	23. R to B 7 ch (d)	23. B takes R
11. Kt takes K B P	11. P takes Kt	24. Q to K 8 ch	24. B to Q sq
12. R takes Q	12. B takes R	25. Q to K 6 mate	
13. Q takes P ch	13. Kt to Q 2		

(a) This game is played throughout in Mr. B.'s happiest style. (b) Quite sound. (c) He has no better move. (d) It is seldom one sees such a pretty mate in an actual game.

WHIST.

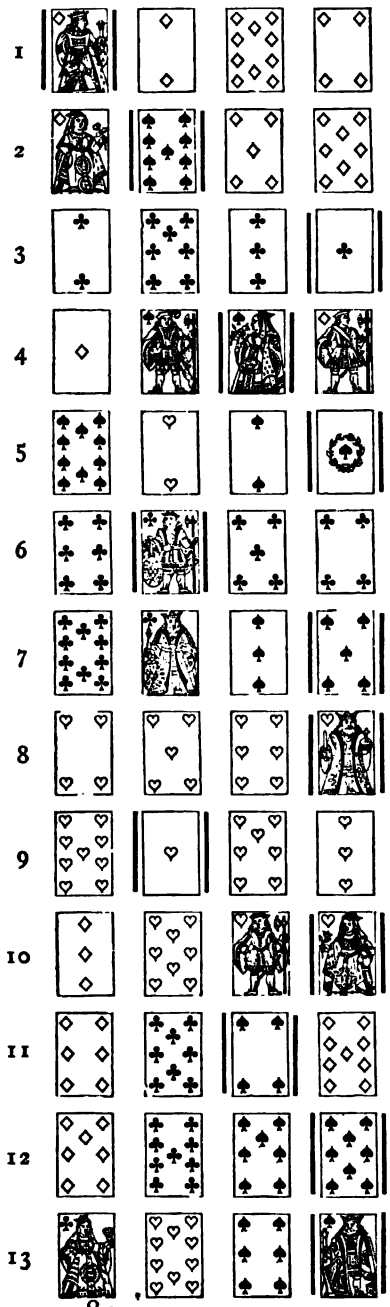
A and B play against X and Z. A leads. The card with the double rim wins, and the card below the rimmed card is the next one led.

HAND No. 103.

Score—Love all.

Spades trumps. Z turns up S 5.

Played at the Westminster Chess Club, 1st August 1871.



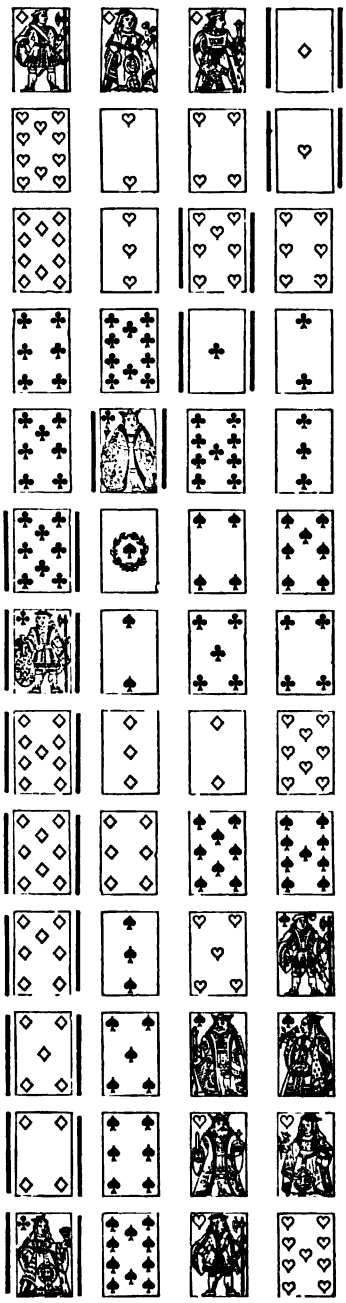
HAND No. 104.

Score—Love.

Clubs trumps. Z turns up C 4.

A's HAND.—D Kv, 10, 9, 8, 7, 5, 4; C A, Kv, 8, 7, 6; H 10.

Played at the Westminster Chess Club.

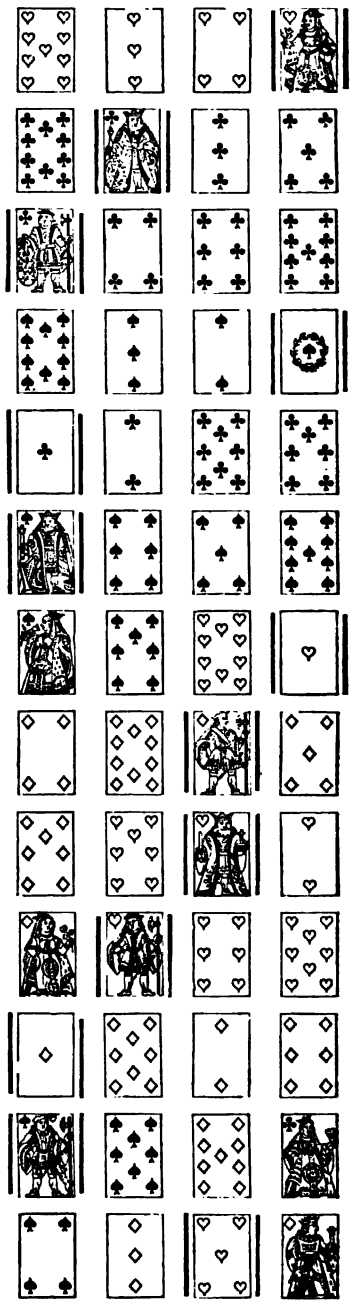


HAND No. 105.

Score—3 all.

Hearts trumps. Z turns up H 8.

Played at the Westminster Chess Club, 4th August 1871.



HAND No. 103.

NOTES.—B commences a Blue Peter. We think improperly. 5. Z knows X has no more trumps; it is therefore useless to show the position of the trump Kg. 6. Z Knows that B has four trumps left. In X's position we should not have finessed. The hand which signalled for trumps lost four by cards.

HAND No. 104.

NOTES.—1. Although A has five trumps he does not lead them until he has got his suit established. This is one of the rare instances where it is not advisable to lead trump with five. 3. A will not be forced; he throws away the best Diamond so that his partner must know he has nothing but winning cards. 4. Therefore B leads his best trump, having but three. The hand exhibits a very curious combination of cards.

HAND No. 105.

NOTES.—1. The lead of the single trump seems justifiable. B knows that the H 9 is his partner's best, and therefore passes it. 7. The position now is interesting. Z should, we think, have passed the trump 10. If B does not trump with the 10, apparently he cannot make the game.

A TRUE STORY.

ABOUT ten o'clock one fine summer's night, some years ago, a gentleman, who, from his sunburnt features, had evidently only lately arrived from abroad, and from a very hot climate, was walking alone in Cremorne Gardens, enjoying at once a fragrant Havana and listening to the music, to which the votaries of Terpsichore were merrily dancing on the circular platform. From the placid manner in which he listened and gazed on the bright scene before him, it was evident he was not an *habitué* of the gardens, or accustomed to join in the revelling. His walk was interrupted by a gentlemanly-looking man, who politely asked for a light to his cigar. This of course was given, and acknowledged by the lifting of his hat in the most pronounced fashionable form. The stranger, who for convenience sake it will be as well to call Robinson, was about to pass on his way, when his progress was stayed by an observation from the polite gentleman, to the effect that it was a charming evening and a very gay scene. To which not very original observation Mr. Robinson of course replied; and so a conversation began, and was continued during a walk round the grounds. Mr. Robinson was asked to try a very choice cigar, offered by—let us at once call him—Smith, which he accepted, and admitted to be excellent, better than he had smoked for a long time—better far than he had ever seen in the country he came from. "Oh!" said Smith, "are you a foreigner?" "Yes, from Demerara," replied Robinson, "and I only reached England a day or two ago." "How strange," rejoined Smith, "I have a friend who resides there; I wonder if you know him—his names is Jones. He was a doctor in the 161st, fell in love whilst serving with his regiment, married and settled in the island." "I know him quite well," replied Robinson, "but by sight only. He is, I fear, a loose fish, and does not bear the best reputation. He is too fond of the good things of life. I saw him only a day before I left. He was at my lawyer's, on some business connected with his wife's estate, on which, as I heard, he was trying to raise money." "I'm glad to hear the old boy is still in the land of the living," said Smith; "he always was fast, and will no doubt be so to the end of the chapter; but his heart was in the right place. He and I have not met for years." The conversation, thus began, was cemented by a drink at the bar, until at length Smith suggested that after all the place was "slow," and that except to those who wished to indulge in a flirtation with a fair one there was more real fun at Evans's. Robinson had heard of the place, would like of course to see it,—beyond everything. "What do you say then," said Smith, "let's go there at once." Robinson assented, and a Hansom soon conducted them to Covent-garden. Smith kept up such a lively and interesting chat, that Robinson mentally voted him a most agreeable fellow. The usual friendly dispute arose as to payment for the cab, in which Smith was the victor, and they were about to enter the hall of the celebrated Paddy Green, when Smith suddenly recollected it was far too soon to go in, as there would be no one there till after the theatres, and he suggested a cup of coffee and a cigar to pass away an hour. Nothing loth, Robinson assented, and they walked on until they reached a cigar-shop, which, at the period of our history, existed opposite to the private-box entrance of one of the large theatres, a plain old-fashioned looking shop, not well stocked with cigars, with a dark-colored curtain closely drawn across the inner window, so as completely to shut out the view of what was passing from the street, a similar curtain being drawn across the window in the shop-door. Smith, upon entering, asked the shopkeeper for one of his best cigars, and pointing to a room beyond, fitted up with tables and sofas—a sort of divan in fact—enquired whether they could be supplied with coffee. The shopkeeper informed him that they could, and our friends were in the act of going into the room, when two gentlemen entered the shop, each talking in a loud voice, and both together, so loud and so earnestly as to call the attention of our friends to them. "I tell you I'm right," said the first, "I'll lay a hundred to one;—a thousand if you like. "I know I'm right," said the other, "though I don't want to bet; I never do, as you know. Still, I am not the less right." "I'll tell you what I'll do," replied the first disputant, "I'll leave it to this gentleman—pointing to Robinson—and bet you four cups of coffee and cigars I'm right." "Done," said

the non-betting gentleman, and all four walked into the inner room, where the question in dispute was submitted to Mr. Robinson. It was this :—I hold King, Knave, Ten, and two small cards of a suit at Whist, which is the correct card to lead, as an original lead? Mr. Robinson decided it was the Ten, and so awarded the bet in favor of the gentleman who had said he never betted, his friend appearing much chapfallen at the decision, having been vehement in declaring it was the Knave which should be led.

The coffee and cigars were brought in, and of course, the subject of Whist having been broached, the conversation as to the game was continued, until at length Smith observed, "I wonder if we could have a rubber here?" It was soon found that they could. Cards were produced, and Robinson and Smith were partners against the two strangers, who introduced themselves as Green and Brown by name. The stakes were at first for cups of coffee only, afterwards for half-crown points, and finally for half-sovereign points, with a sovereign on the rubber, Robinson and Smith continuing to be partners, and the play terminated by each losing between £5 and £10. All four gentlemen then adjourned to Evans's, and quite late at night separated with an engagement for the following evening, at the same shop, when Robinson and Smith were to have their revenge. Smith insisted on walking with Robinson to his hotel, and on the road the latter imparted to his newly-found friend the interesting fact that he had come to England for the purpose of receiving a legacy, amounting to £4,000, that he was to go to the Bank of England and receive the money in the course of a day or two; and that during the time he had been in town he was amusing himself with seeing the sights of London. Hence his visit to Cremorne. Smith, before leaving, handed Mr. Robinson his card, adding, how happy he should be to chaperone his newly-found friend to some of the marvels of London, which, unless well directed, Mr. Robinson would be sure to miss. Robinson, quite delighted with his new friend, who had all the appearance and manners of a polished gentleman, invited him to dine at his hotel on the following day; and Smith, with some apparent hesitation, accepted; and so they parted for the night.

Smith was punctual to his dinner engagement, and after dessert and a bottle of port, they started in the direction of Covent-garden, to keep their appointment, and play the return rubber. Their opponents had not arrived, but made their appearance shortly afterwards, apologising for being late, observing incidentally that they had been dining with some friends in Eaton Square, and could hardly manage to get away—in fact, they had forgotten their engagement when making the appointment, but as they had won on the last occasion, they did not like to fail in their engagement. We may remark, by the way, that Green and Brown were each well dressed, in evening costume, and were tall gentlemanly-looking men.

Coffee, cigars and cards were produced, and play soon began, Messrs. Robinson and Smith again being partners. At first fortune favored them, they won back considerably more than they had lost. But the fickle goddess again deserted them, and Messrs. Robinson and Smith each lost £50 odd. In the case of our friend Robinson this was more than he had about him, and on the fact being stated by him, Mr. Smith forthwith drew out his pocket-book, and insisted, on behalf of his friend, in discharging the debt.

The play appeared to be even, and Mr. Robinson, who was a good sound player, though not brilliant or first class, was of opinion that Smith's play was slightly better than either Green or Brown. The result it was evident was entirely due to the marvellous ill luck with which at every critical point of the several games their opponents scored honors, or had overwhelming hands.

Before separating, Smith stated that he had invited a few friends to a fish dinner on the following Monday, and would be glad if all of them would join. Mr. Robinson regretted his inability to do so, as he had an important engagement for that day with his lawyer, to go to the City. On which Smith insisted upon altering the day, and Tuesday was fixed upon, at the "Trafalgar." After some general conversation Brown and Green left, and Robinson and Smith went to the lodgings of the latter in Weymouth Street, Oxford Street. Here they had more smoke and chat, and to pass the time a game of Ecarté for half-a-sovereign a game. Robinson played well and with good luck, and won £5, which Smith would insist on paying in cash, though Robinson owed him £25, the amount he had previously paid. Smith had described himself as a law student, whose friends lived in the city, and as he was anything but a working man, in fact a very idle one, he offered on the following day (Sunday) to take Mr. Robinson to Richmond, and promised to call for him after church hours, and drive him down in his trap.

Mr. Robinson, agreed to the suggestion, and on the following day, at about two o'clock, Smith drove to the hotel in a smart phaeton, accompanied by an equally smart groom, in unexceptionable livery of the quietest pattern. The whole turn out being of its kind perfect, the horse not less so than the appointments. The drive to Richmond was rapid, and on arriving at the Star and Garter, a glass of sherry and a biscuit discussed, dinner ordered, they went down to the river, chartered a wherry, and pulled up to Teddington. Robinson was charmed with the scenery, and Smith made himelf very agreeable, showing a perfect knowledge of all the river reaches, and of the dwellers by the water side. The dinner, as in those days it used to be at the Star, was capital, the wine first class, and the cigars afterwards; so, when Smith (who had insisted on paying) at ten at night deposited Mr. Robinson in safety at his hotel, he declared with perfect truth that he had passed a delightful day. He should not be able to see Mr. Smith till the evening of the following day, when he hoped he would dine with him at his hotel. This invitation was accepted, and the friends

parted. Mr. Robinson was very busy all the next day, for he was in Lincoln's Inn at his lawyers by eleven o'clock. Here he met an uncle from the country, the surviving trustee of his father. There was a great signing of deeds, re-leases, and accounts, and a vast deal of legal formality to go through, until, about two o'clock, Mr. Robinson, his solicitor, and uncle took cab to the Bank of England, and the sum of £4,375 in crisp new Bank of England notes found themselves safely buttoned up in Mr. Robinson's breast coat pocket. As they were leaving the office of the Stock Broker, where the business was finally completed, by one of those singular "accidents," which at times happen to all of us, Mr. Smith passed. He started with surprise, but only acknowledged his acquaintance with Robinson by raising his hat, and walked on. His uncle asked who that was, and was informed that he was a friend of Dr. Jones, of Demerara. The party then returned to Lincoln's Inn, and finished the signing of documents, and Robinson having seen his uncle off by a train at Euston, returned to his hotel at six o'clock, where he found Smith *just arrived.* After dressing, Robinson conducted Mr. Smith to a snug private room, where, at Smith's suggestion, he had ordered dinner to be served, the coffee room being voted a nuisance. Here they had a capital little dinner, and some famous old port; afterwards Mr. Robinson amused his friend with a quizzical account of his old uncle, the lawyer, and the whole business of the day. Robinson discharged his debt by a cheque on a London Bank, where he had that day opened an account. He then proposed a game of Ecarté, and they played two games, each winning one, when Smith begged to be excused playing longer, pleading headache as an excuse, and he left early, promising to call for Mr. Robinson at four o'clock on the following afternoon, and drive him down to Greenwich. He should then, he observed, send back the trap, and they could return, whenever it suited them, by rail.

Mr. Smith was punctual to his appointment on the following day, and our friends were soon *en route* for Greenwich, where they arrived without accident. Smith ordered dinner at seven, for six persons, and then strolled out with Mr. Robinson into the Hospital, which they examined with great interest, and thence to the Park, returning in good time for dinner. Green and Brown had arrived, and soon afterwards two other gentlemen made their appearance. It is unnecessary to give their names, as after they were introduced to Mr. Robinson they expressed their great regret at being unable to stay later than eight o'clock, having particular engagements in London, and they did in fact leave before the dessert was put on the table.

The dinner—served in a private room—was most *recherché*, and Robinson thoroughly enjoyed the fish, never before having partaken of such a repast. He did not fail either to do ample justice to the dry champagne or to the very "curious" old port; and when, after dinner, he was on the verandah overlooking the river, smoking his cigar, he declared he had never had so good a dinner in his life.

The evening being chilly, the windows were soon closed, candles lighted, a card table set out, and the four sat down to Whist.

Smith, whilst walking in the park, had hinted that he should try and increase the stakes, as he felt confident they should be able to get back the money they had lost; and accordingly at his suggestion it was agreed they should play pound points, with £5 on the rubber, giving and taking 5 to 2 in pounds.

The play began about nine, and by eleven o'clock our heroes found themselves losers of £100 each, this large amount being due to several bets which from time to time had been made on individual hands.

Smith appeared much excited at his losses. Robinson was calm and indifferent, but anxious no doubt to get back his money. Smith said he should have new cards, as those with which they had been playing only brought bad luck, and he rang the bell for the purpose, and ordered the waiter to bring two new packs of cards. He left the room as he said to wash, and on returning brought back the new cards, which he observed the fellow was crawling up the stairs with as he came past.

The game was resumed, and Smith and Robinson won the first rubber with the new cards. During the next game Robinson had to deal, and having shuffled the cards, placed them for Brown to cut. Smith *asked him to ring the bell, as he wanted some brandy and soda. Robinson left the table to do so,* and on his return proceeded to deal, and turned up the Ace of Spades.

Upon sorting his hand, he was astonished to find that he held, besides the Ace, the King, Queen, Knave, ten and nine of trumps, Ace and King of Hearts, Ace and King of Clubs, with two small ones, and the Queen of Diamonds. He observed that he would bet 100 to 1 he won the game. Green, who appeared to be intently studying his hand, said, "Don't be too sure of that; I think we shall make the odd trick." Robinson replied it was impossible, and added, "Ill bet you £1,000 to £50 upon it." "Done," said Green, and amidst the greatest excitement the game proceeded.

Green led King of Diamonds, to which his left hand opponent followed suit, and so did Brown, and Mr. Robinson's Queen fell. Green then led Ace of Diamonds; this Mr. Robinson trumped with the 9, and played the King of Trumps. Green followed suit, but it was found that neither of the other players held a trump. Mr. Robinson then saw that Green had originally held seven trumps, whilst he had only six, one of which had been forced by the Ace of Diamonds, leaving him (after he had played the King of Trumps) with four, whilst Green held five. On making this discovery, Mr. Robinson played King of Hearts; this Green trumped and played Knave of Diamonds, which Mr. Robinson trumped, and then again changed his lead to King of Clubs; but this was also trumped by Green, and the 10 of Diamonds led, and so

Mr. Robinson was again forced. In the result, as the Whist player will understand, Green, who held seven trumps and *six Diamonds*, by forcing Mr. Robinson's hand, was left with the thirteenth trump, scored the odd trick, and won the bet.

Mr. Smith was profuse in his expressions of regret and condolence, observing that Robinson had no right to make such a bet, and that, for his part, he was disgusted at it, as he considered high play ought not to be tolerated, and that he would never have sanctioned it.

Mr. Robinson, when he recovered from the shock, said he would not play any more that night, and, drawing a cheque book from his pocket, he handed one to Mr. Green for £1,500, and to Mr. Brown (for bye bets) £200; Mr. Smith at the same time giving his check for £350, the amount he had lost.

Upon reaching the station the last train to London was found to have gone. After some delay, a Brougham and pair was found, and the party reached town, Green kindly inviting them to dine with him at the Castle at Richmond, and he would give them a chance to get their money back. The invitation was accepted, and an early day appointed.

Smith did not accompany Robinson to his hotel as usual, pleading fatigue; but early next morning he called on Mr. Robinson and breakfasted with him.

Mr. Robinson was not in the best of spirits, and Smith appeared to be no less disgusted with the result of the past night's amusement. He hinted—rather than stated—his suspicions of Green. It was certainly *very* strange how constantly he won! It was *very* remarkable that two such hands should have been held! Though such things do—they say—happen with new cards, not properly made, and so on. Mr. Robinson listened; but was too indolent, or too indifferent, to reply; and so, breakfast being finished, they strolled out, and went to lionize London. At night they visited the Opera; and the following day Smith, whose attention to Mr. Robinson never flagged, took him to the Crystal Palace, and dined there, returning early to town. Throughout the day Smith kept harping on their marvellous ill-luck; and at length he said, "I shall only give myself one more chance, and if I don't get my money back to-morrow (the day appointed for dinner) I shall cut them, as I can't afford to lose so much money; and look here, old fellow," he added, "if you hear me offer to lay a bet over £50 you may lay your life to a guinea the game is in my hands, and lay it on heavy, so as to get your money back;" and with these words he left.

Mr. Robinson pondered on these words, and it must be admitted the thought entered his mind that the suggestion was *hardly* right, and that it partook somewhat of confederacy. His keen sense of honour however was a little sullied by his heavy losses, and he mentally desired to get his money back if he could.

The dinner at the Castle was all that could be desired, the wines perfect, the cigars first-class, and as usual the card-table was set out in due course. Robinson and Smith won several rubbers in succession —some twenty points—with bets amounting to upwards of £100. Robinson was in capital spirits. The play continued some time with varying success; when it came to Smith's turn to deal, and he turned up King of Hearts. He rapidly glanced at his hand, and said (the game stood four all), "I'll bet two hundred to one we win the game." "Done," said Green. "I'll take it in monkeys if you like." "No," said Smith. On which Mr. Robinson laughingly said, "What *is* a monkey?" This being explained to him, *and with a look at Smith, who nodded assent*, he said, "I lay it. £1,000 to £500." The bet was accepted. Mr. Brown thereupon observed he would take £200 to £100 each side, and this bet was also laid, and the game proceeded. At the third lead Brown played Ace of Clubs, to which Smith played a Diamond, exclaiming, "I trump it!" "Trump?" said Robinson, "Hearts are trumps!" "No;" replied Smith, in great excitement, "Diamonds are trumps. I turned up King of Diamonds." He was of course undeceived by all three; on which he placed his cards on the table, but, taking them up again, played out the hand, and LOST the odd trick and the game. No sooner was the game over than, without a word, Smith rose, or rather staggered, from the table, and was making for a sofa, when he fell to the ground, apparently in a fit. His cravat was loosened, water thrown in his face, the window opened for air, but all without effect. A waiter was sent for a doctor, who promptly arrived, but only in time to see the patient just recover his consciousness, and in the act of taking some brandy. He explained that he had been subject to fits from boyhood, when too much excited, and that he was then all right again.

The medical gentleman, having pocketed his guinea, departed, and the play finished. Mr. Robinson on this night lost £1,500, which he paid to Green and Moss; and Smith lost £400, which he paid, and the party went back to London. Mr. Smith dropping Robinson at his hotel, and driving on with Green and Brown in Brown's brougham, Smith promising to call and see Mr. Robinson at his rooms on the following morning, to inquire after his health.

We doubt if Mr. Robinson went happily to his bed. He mentally cast up his losses, and was horrified at discovering that he was minus some £3,000, and he awoke to the unpleasant fact that if he went on at this rate he would soon arrive at the end of his legacy, so he wisely resolved to put up with his loss, and to play no more. He slept uneasily, but after tossing about in his bed all night, he fell into a deep slumber from which, about eleven o'clock, he was awakened by a knock at his bedroom door. The waiter informed him that a gentleman named Brown wished to see him. Robinson requested he should be shown to the sitting-room, and hastily getting from his bed, slipped on his dressing-gown and slippers, and went to see him.

"Good morning, Mr. Robinson," said Brown. "You are no doubt astonished to see me so early, but—sir—but—the fact is that Mr. Smith is a d——d scoundrel, and—in short, Mr. Robinson, you have been robbed, and I've come to make a clean breast of it." Robinson was astounded; he thought it very probable that he had been robbed, but could not understand the reference to Smith, who had been so large a loser; and he said, "How dare you speak in that way of my friend." "Your friend," retorted Brown; "your friend, indeed! He is a thief and a scoundrel. Not content with robbing you, he has now robbed me. Your friend! He it was who picked you up in Cremorne Gardens, where he followed you from your hotel. He it was who arranged your meeting with Green and myself. He it was who got up and paid for the dinners. He it is who has pocketed all the plunder, and he now robs me of my share; and I swore to him half an hour ago I'd come and tell you all. He changed and stacked the cards when you made the first heavy loss. The fit was sham; go to his lodging, and you'll find him with his friend Green laughing in their sleeves at you and at me. There, now, you know the whole truth."

As this history is but a dry narrative of facts, we will not stay to describe Mr. Robinson's feelings, the truth began to dawn on his mind. He begged Brown to wait whilst he dressed, and, having swallowed a cup of tea, took a cab, and went to the office of his uncle's solicitor. That gentleman—an old and experienced man of the world—listened to the narrative in silence, put only a very few questions, and then said to Brown: "I believe, sir, every word you have said, and I shall advise Mr. Robinson to adopt very severe measures." He then wrote a few lines on a sheet of paper, and presented it to Brown, saying: "Will you sign and agree to that?" "Yes," said Brown, "I will;" and he signed a consent to be detained in a lock-up house at Mr. Robinson's pleasure, whilst enquiries were being made, so as to prevent the possibility of Smith or his agents getting at him, undertaking not to bring any action for false imprisonment. He was forthwith conducted to a celebrated spunging house in Chancery-lane, with instructions that he was not to see any one, and that no letters were to be posted or delivered from him, and none to be received by him.

This done, Mr. Brown gave the solicitor a narrative of all the circumstances of the case. They may be shortly summarised thus:—Mr. Smith learned by a letter from his friend at Demerara that Mr. Robinson was about to sail for England to receive a large legacy, and the hotel at which he was likely to stay was mentioned, he having accidentally heard it in the lawyer's office. Robinson was accurately described, and the writer hoped his friend Smith would "pull off a good thing," and not forget him. Smith watched the arrival of the mail steamer, and spotted Mr. Robinson as soon as he reached his hotel. Due notice was given to Brown and Green, and for some days Robinson was watched, without affording an opportunity for an introduction. At length the visit to Cremorne gave the long waited-for chance. Robinson was followed to the Gardens by the three confederates, and followed to town again after Mr. Smith had succeeded in getting him first to give a light to his cigar, and then, as we have seen, to go to the cigar shop in Drury-lane. Our readers will not require to be told that the subsequent treatment of Mr. Robinson was an organized scheme between the three, the object of course being plunder; and that up to a certain point all went well and smoothly; but when thieves fall out, &c., &c. So poor Mr. Robinson learned how he had been duped and robbed.

The sequel is soon told. The story was found to be strictly true, and was confirmed by a multitude of small but important circumstances. Smith and Green were arrested and taken before a magistrate, charged with conspiracy and cheating. Brown gave evidence against them, and they were fully committed for trial to the Old Bailey. At the trial, which took place at the next ensuing sessions, they were both convicted and sentenced, Smith to eighteen months imprisonment and £1,500 fine, and Green to twelve months and £1,000 fine; and so this eventful history terminated.

MORAL.—Never play cards with strangers.

NOTE.—The writer assures his readers that every word of the above narrative is strictly true, and that the circumstances happened exactly as they have been detailed.

ENGLISHMEN are wonderfully conservative in the matter of playing cards. Many years ago a celebrated card making firm introduced different colours for the four suits, and also endeavoured to replace the antiquated and clumsy devices of the kings, queens, and knaves, by something more artistic. Although many beautiful designs for their backs have been invented by eminent artists, no one has ever successfully tampered with the royal and knavish countenances. But there is one great improvement that might be introduced without wounding the susceptibilities of the oldest veteran of the whist table, and that is to change the pip of the seven from the top of the card to the centre as is the case with the five. Mistakes, often leading to confusion in the game, are continually being made by its being played for the eight, and the eight for the seven. A game was actually lost very recently by a player throwing the eight instead of the seven. His partner, thinking it was a call for trumps, led them, drew them, and prevented his trumping a suit of which he had none. It would be curious to know whether it is merely the result of accident or design that the pips of this card are placed differently from the corresponding threes, fives and nines.—*Globe.*

ODDS.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to know what are the Odds against his partner holding three trumps when he has six in his own hand, and another is turned up by the adversaries. As we suppose the question is asked for the purpose of deciding a bet, we have taken the trouble to calculate it, and find the Odds against partners holding three trumps exactly is about 3 to 1, and the Odds against his holding three or more is 2 to 1 as nearly as possible.

Having been at the pains of going through the rather laborious calculations we give them in full, as a good illustration of the method of calculating Odds in such cases. But we must beg that in future those questions, which involve no general principle, may be calculated by the parties interested, as they are merely arithmetical exercises.

To enable our readers to do this, it is our intention to commence a series of papers, at an early date, on that elementary part of the Calculus of Probabilities which applies to betting. The principles are easily understood without any preliminary knowledge other than simple arithmetic, although the actual calculation is often very tedious, as may be seen in the present instance.

In the whole pack there are 52 cards, of which, in this case, there are 14 known, viz. 1 trump turned, 6 in your own hand, and 7 plain cards. The unknown cards therefore consist of 32 plain cards and 6 trumps. Any 13 of these 38 cards may be in your partner's hand.

The number of possible Combinations of 38 cards taken 13 at a time is represented by the following fraction :—

$$\frac{38}{1}\,\frac{37}{2}\,\frac{36}{3}\,\frac{35}{4}\,\frac{34}{5}\,\frac{33}{6}\,\frac{32}{7}\,\frac{31}{8}\,\frac{30}{9}\,\frac{29}{10}\,\frac{28}{11}\,\frac{27}{12}\,\frac{26}{13} = 5{,}414{,}950{,}296$$

Your partner may have any one of the following hands :—6 trumps 7 others, 5 trumps 8 others, 4 trumps 9 others, 3 trumps 10 others, 2 trumps 11 others, 1 trump 12 others, or 13 plain cards without trump. The number of Combinations possible in each of these hands is—

NUMBER OF COMBINATIONS.

6 Trumps ... ... $\left\{\frac{6}{1}\,\frac{5}{2}\,\frac{4}{3}\,\frac{3}{4}\,\frac{2}{5}\,\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{32}{1}\,\frac{31}{2}\,\frac{30}{3}\,\frac{29}{4}\,\frac{28}{5}\,\frac{27}{6}\,\frac{26}{7}\right. = 3{,}365{,}856$

5 Trumps ... ... $\left\{\frac{6}{1}\,\frac{5}{2}\,\frac{4}{3}\,\frac{3}{4}\,\frac{2}{5} \times \frac{32}{1}\,\frac{31}{2}\,\frac{30}{3}\,\frac{29}{4}\,\frac{28}{5}\,\frac{27}{6}\,\frac{26}{7}\,\frac{25}{8}\right. = 63{,}109{,}800$

4 Trumps ... ... $\left\{\frac{6}{1}\,\frac{5}{2}\,\frac{4}{3}\,\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{32}{1}\,\frac{31}{2}\,\frac{30}{3}\,\frac{29}{4}\,\frac{28}{5}\,\frac{27}{6}\,\frac{26}{7}\,\frac{25}{8}\,\frac{24}{9}\right. = 420{,}732{,}000$

3 Trumps ... ... $\left\{\frac{6}{1}\,\frac{5}{2}\,\frac{4}{3} \times \frac{32}{1}\,\frac{31}{2}\,\frac{30}{3}\,\frac{29}{4}\,\frac{28}{5}\,\frac{27}{6}\,\frac{26}{7}\,\frac{25}{8}\,\frac{24}{9}\,\frac{23}{10}\right. = 1{,}290{,}244{,}800$

2 Trumps ... ... $\left\{\frac{6}{1}\,\frac{5}{2} \times \frac{32}{1}\,\frac{31}{2}\,\frac{30}{3}\,\frac{29}{4}\,\frac{28}{5}\,\frac{27}{6}\,\frac{26}{7}\,\frac{25}{8}\,\frac{24}{9}\,\frac{23}{10}\,\frac{22}{11}\right. = 1{,}935{,}367{,}200$

1 Trump ... ... $\left\{\frac{6}{1} \times \frac{32}{1}\,\frac{31}{2}\,\frac{30}{3}\,\frac{29}{4}\,\frac{28}{5}\,\frac{27}{6}\,\frac{26}{7}\,\frac{25}{8}\,\frac{24}{9}\,\frac{23}{10}\,\frac{22}{11}\,\frac{21}{12}\right. = 1{,}354{,}757{,}040$

No Trump ... ... $\left\{\frac{32}{1}\,\frac{31}{2}\,\frac{30}{3}\,\frac{29}{4}\,\frac{28}{5}\,\frac{27}{6}\,\frac{26}{7}\,\frac{25}{8}\,\frac{24}{9}\,\frac{23}{10}\,\frac{22}{11}\,\frac{21}{12}\,\frac{20}{13}\right. = 347{,}373{,}600$

Total number of Combinations 5,414,950,296

This, it will be seen, agrees with the result before obtained, and is a proof of correct calculation so far.

Now, to find the fraction which represents the chance in favour of each of these hands, we must take the number opposite each as numerator, and the total number as denominator, or by dividing we get the result in the form of decimals. These results are given below, and in the next column are reduced to an approximate fraction, and the Odds given in the last column :—

	Decimal.		Vulgar Fraction.		Odds.			
6 Trumps	·00062	=	$\frac{1}{1608}$	or	1608	to	1	against it.
5 Trumps	·01166	=	$\frac{1}{86}$	or	85	to	1	,,
4 Trumps	·07772	=	$\frac{1}{12}$	or	12	to	1	,,
3 Trumps	·23830	=	$\frac{8}{31}$	or	$3\frac{1}{8}$	to	1	,,
2 Trumps	·35744	=	$\frac{5}{14}$	or	9	to	5	,,
1 Trump	·25010	=	$\frac{1}{4}$	or	3	to	1	,,
No Trump	·06416	=	$\frac{2}{31}$	or	29	to	2	,,
	1·00000		1					

It must be borne in mind that these Odds represent the chances against holding each number of trumps exactly. The Odds against holding that number or more is found by adding the fraction opposite this number to all above it. For example, the Odds against three or more trumps is ·3283 = $\frac{23}{67}$ or 2 $\frac{1}{22}$ to 1.

LUCK.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—There are few that would venture to assert that there is no such thing as luck. What luck is, and by what laws it is governed, so far as I know, none can tell. The philosopher refuses to admit that luck exists. The mathematician alleges it is governed by the doctrine of chances. The superstitious believe that it accrues to the person possessing some charm. I presume that there is no card player that is not acquainted with some other player always lucky. Such an one goes on for years and years holding wonderfully good cards. The belief, at any rate, is universal that such beings exist, and every card player knows at least one such happy mortal. The subject is one that puzzles me much, and I should like to find an explanation. It certainly is within my knowledge that there are lucky and unlucky players, and although I have a belief in the efficacy of skill to a limited extent, still I say luck beats skill; and it seems to me that the moment a player becomes skilful the luck deserts him. Does not the young player as a rule win? I fancy I see an explanation how it is that the muffs win. If they did not win they would give up the game, which, as an intellectual entertainment, can be of no amusement to them. The bad players that lose retire from the contest. The good players that lose have become so engrossed with the amusement that they do not dream of retiring from an unprofitable contest, and the consequence is that the lucky and unlucky good players remain to meet only the lucky bad players. I cannot say this is a satisfactory explanation of the phenomenon, but it is an explanation, and a bad reason at Whist is considered better than no reason. But you, sir, will say the cards must equalise themselves. I don't see why they should. If, for a series of years, a a man goes on with a majority of trumps and court cards, I don't see why the Goddess Luck should change her tactics, and give him a less quantity of her favours. As a question of chance, I never could see what the past had to do with the present. The luck attaches to persons as cats to houses. The lucky players can do no wrong, whilst the unlucky players seem never to do right. What is perhaps more to the point is, that ill luck affects the play. The good players even lose confidence, and do not take the chances they otherwise would. Nay, more, this luck affects not only the individual players but the play of the whole Club, and so the play goes from bad to worse. Each man plays without faith in the other, and that thing luck, which none of us understand, has a material influence on the welfare of individuals, and, through the individuals, the whole mass. This, sir, is a subject worthy of examination. I know that it is open to ridicule, but so are all things that we don't comprehend; and the more shallow the critic the more certain is he to laugh at my credulity. My object in writing to you is rather to invite an inquiry into the proposition whether luck exists, or is the result of the imagination alone; and if it exists, to ascertain if there be no laws which govern this luck. I am quite aware that you are an unbeliever in luck; that you have no faith in seats or cards, and I know also that you will say my profession of belief in luck is not serious because I would not back two bad lucky players against yourself and another equally unlucky player, but I say beforehand this is beside the question. The luck exists, and it is the duty of those who make a study of matters connected with cards, to try and ascertain what this thing luck is, and not treat the object as childish nonsense. It is too late in the day to treat a thing as non-existent that has been believed in by every nation under the sun.

INQUIRER.

LETTERS TO MY AUNT ON THE PHYSIOLOGY OF GAMBLING.

No. III.

"Discite mortales rerum cognoscere causas."

MY DEAR AUNT,—I have endeavoured, in my former letters, to show you that a moderate liking for games of skill, such as Chess, Whist or Billiards, need not deteriorate a man's character, and is even, in many cases, conducive, not only to intellectual improvement, but even to greater success in the ever-waging battle of life. I shall try to convince you, my dear aunt, in this concluding letter, that the cause for such liking is deeper seated than most moralists on this subject surmise.

Modern science has caused a revolution in everything relating to man. Its discoveries, and their practical applications, startle us nearly every day; that is to say, they would do so if we could bring our minds to contemplate our steamboats, railways, telegraphs, &c. as the product of a chance secretion of some select brains. But all invention is a child of necessity. Hunger, or as I prefer to call it, *aggressive acquisitiveness*, is the source from which sprung all human civilisation. This aggressive acquisitiveness is one of the great laws of life; no life is possible for one moment without its action. Everything which lives has to draw its life from the medium around it. Look at this cell. You see a rounded or elongated cavity, full of a transparent rotating fluid, and containing a small kernel. But, though this cell is the lowest expression of life, the aggressive acquisitiveness is

as powerful in it as in any king or banker. It draws freely from the surrounding protoplasm, or, even if stronger, appropriates parts of a neighbour cell. This quality, which permeates the lowest living matter, has produced the wonderful development of the lower into the higher forms to which man himself owes his existence. It would lead me too far to try to prove to you how universal and beneficial this law is, and how nothing can control it in its action, except the equally great law of love. Life, in fact, is to take and to give; an endosmosis and exosmosis, an addition and a substraction, a mysterious game, in which winning and losing alternate. The laws of hunger and love govern the lowest cell as well as the highest cedar, the microscopic infusorium as well as the most majestic man. The most perfect, the most beautiful being is that in which the two laws are equally balanced in their action.

This aggressive acquisitiveness in man takes different forms. We want to grow, we want to have what is called elbow-room, we want to take from nature in the first instance, but if that is not practicable, from some other man. The means for that purpose is either superior physical force or superior mental power. The civilised state justly forbids the first, and it allows the other only conditionally. But it is impossible to suppress entirely an instinct which is such an essential part of our being, and man, particularly civilised man, finds an outlet for its action in all sorts of speculation and gambling. This love of gambling is in every country and in every clime. True statesmanship, seeing that it is irrepressible, would study its cause, and rather regulate and foster it. Look at Paris! Look at the smouldering ruins of some of the noblest palaces in the world; consider the frightful losses and misery which the last revolt there has produced. I speak not in joke, but very seriously, my dear aunt, when I tell you that the Commune, in my opinion, would have never existed if the French Government had not suppressed the Public Lottery, or if the Parisian working men had been induced to take the same interest in any French horse-race as ours do in the Derby.

But the French working man had no outlet for his aggressive acquisitiveness. While he saw those above him grow richer and mightier every day, even the dream of wealth was denied to him. As long as he put his few sous in a "bureau," and lay the flattering unction of sudden luck to his soul, he was quiet enough. Once the possibility of getting plenty of money and no work *by chance* taken away from him, and he brooded how he could attain the same end *by force*. The result has been felt with one painful thrill throughout the habitable globe!

If games of chance therefore have their *raison d'être*, how much more games of skill! They not only satisfy an instinctive desire in us, but they also create thought. The utilitarian may laugh at the last effect as an idle amusement, but since science has demonstrated the correlation and convertibility of all forces, the production of thought is as important as the production of coal or iron.

The thought which forms the solution of a Chess Problem, may after many changes lift the mighty steam hammer, or bore the tunnel through the vastness of Mont Cenis!

To think, and to think logically, and to act after and according to logical thought, the most important, but also the most difficult thing to do for man, as Goethe well remarked, is what all games of skill teach. Thus they rather deserve encouragement, for truly educational purposes, than the wholesale condemnation which is the fashion to utter on the authority of ignorant and shallow moralists.

Hoping to have the pleasure of playing a good rubber with you, Uncle John, and Mr. Longwind, at my next visit to Pear Hall, I remain, your devoted nephew, ROBERT CHANCE.

A MELANCHOLY BUT TRUE STORY.

The Ruling Passion, &c.

MR. LAWLESS had played, with exceeding bad luck,
All the evening and night, on till dawning of day;
There were only *four* left, at last one of *these* struck,
And declared he no longer was able to play.

Excited at being so heavily hit,
Something seemed to go wrong with poor Lawless's head,
And he fell in a kind of a sort of a fit,
And was carried insensible off to his bed!

A doctor soon came (he was living quite handy),
And a sketch of the case was laid quickly before him;
He felt Lawless' pulse, then administered brandy,
And after some minutes contrived to restore him.

"I'm rejoiced," said the doctor, "thus quickly to free you,
I'm not a great man, but I do what I'm able."
Lawless smiled, and said faintly, "Delighted to see you,
We shall now be enabled to make up a table!"

Ealing, 23rd March 1871. NEMO.

DOUBLE DUMMY ENDING.

No. LV. BY F. H. LEWIS.

A's HAND.—H A, K, Kv, 3; S Q; D Q, 3; C 3.

X's HAND.—H 10, 7; S 9, 8, 7; D 6, 5; C 9.

B's HAND.—S 6, 5, 4, 3, 2; D A, Kg; C Kv.

Z's HAND.—H Q, 8, 4, 2; S 10; D 4, 2; C 10.

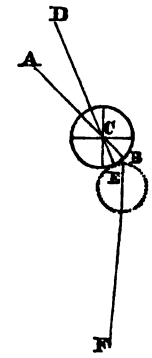
C trumps. A to lead, and A and B to make seven tricks.

REVIEW.

THE SPOT STROKE.*

CIRCUMSTANCES prevented our notice of this little work as soon as we intended. This is the less to be regretted as the pamphlet is only the pilot of a complete work on Billiards by the same author and the same editor. The subject was evidently chosen as one which could be treated as a whole, and which excites a good deal of interest among amateurs, who are all anxious to be proficient at the stroke. We believe this to be a mistake on their part, for the player who cannot make more than six or seven successive spots to a certainty without a break down, will always lose more than he gains by playing for it. It must be observed that a failure in making the hazard leaves the red ball over the corner pocket and the white near the spot, the very position where a player of ordinary strength may expect to make a large score. Leaving out of the question however the expediency of playing for this break, it is a pleasure to be able to speak cordially in praise of this book, as a sample, and we have to notice only one important omission, which prevents its being a complete manual of the winning hazard. It is possible that both Mr. Bennett and "Cavendish" have overlooked the fact that few amateurs or even professional players know theoretically how to play for a winning hazard. Of course all know that to make a straight hazard you must strike the object-ball in the middle, and that to make a cut you must strike the ball as thin as possible: but they know not how to strike the object-ball so as to make any other hazard.

In the annexed diagram suppose the ball C to be the object-ball, and the striker's ball to be at a good distance from it in the direction of the line B F. All players, till they learn their error by practice, in trying to drive the object-ball in the direction C A, will strike their own ball in the direction of a line from F to B,—B being the extremity of the diameter of C, which passes through A. Now it will be observed that by doing so the first contact of the balls does not take place at B, the point intended, but at E, and the object-ball is accordingly driven in the direction E D. After a number of failures the beginner finds that he must strike the object-ball, as he thinks, finer than mechanical rules would require. The amount of deviation he learns by practice only, and considers the case one of those in which the running of billiard balls cannot be predicted on theoretic grounds.



We hope that in the complete work the diagrams may be given of a larger size. The balls are so small in the illustration before us that the beginner cannot fix the point of contact with the necessary accuracy. We are glad to see however that the artist has avoided the error which render useless all previous billiard diagrams. He has not made the angle of divergence of the stricken ball touch the object-ball, but has kept it as it should be, a half-ball from the cushion and the ball struck.

CROQUET.

MEETING OF THE GRAND NATIONAL CROQUET CLUB AT MORETON.

THE third meeting of the year of the Grand National Croquet Club took place at Moreton in Gloucestershire. We subjoin the score :—

PARTNER MATCH.

1ST ROUND.—Captain Farwell and Miss Jordan beat Captain Lillie and Miss C. Buckworth. Mr. A. C. Rawlinson and Miss M. Rawlinson beat Mr. Muntz and Miss Hawkins. Mr. A. L. Rawlinson and Miss Crusoe beat Rev. C. A. Dickins and Mrs. Muntz. Mr. Baker and Miss Whitmore a bye.

2ND ROUND.—Capt. Farwell and Miss Jordan beat Mr. A. C. Rawlinson and Miss M. Rawlinson. Mr. A. L. Rawlinson and Miss Crusoe beat Mr. Baker and Miss Whitmore.

3RD ROUND.—Captain Farwell and Miss Jordan beat Mr. A. L. Rawlinson and Miss Crusoe.

In the first round the match between Captain Farwell and Miss Jordan and Captain Lillie and Miss Buckworth was very evenly contested, and the play altogether was good, though Mr. Lillie was not in his usual form. In the succeeding rounds Captain Farwell and Miss Jordan were too strong for their antagonists, and won with ease. The play was much admired.

LADIES' MATCH.

1ST ROUND.—Miss M. Rawlinson beat Miss Hawkins. Miss Whitmore beat Mrs. Bromfield. Miss Thompson a bye.

2ND ROUND.—Miss M. Rawlinson beat Miss Thompson. Miss Whitmore a bye.

3RD ROUND.—Miss M. Rawlinson beat Miss Whitmore.

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*"The Spot Stroke," by Joseph Bennett (ex-champion). Edited by Cavendish. London: Thos. De La Rue and Co., 1871.

GENTLEMEN'S MATCH.

1ST ROUND.—Mr. Whitmore (giving 1 bisque) beat Mr. A Rawlinson. Mr. Muntz (1 bisque) beat Mr. C. N. Chase. Captain Lillie (1 bisque) beat Rev. C. Dickins. Mr. Baker beat Captain Farwell w.o.

2ND ROUND.—Mr. Muntz beat Mr. Whitmore. Captain Lillie (1 bisque) beat Mr. Baker.

3RD ROUND.—Mr Muntz beat Captain Lillie.

In the second round Mr. Whitmore lost the second game through a mistake, playing the wrong ball, when all four balls were at the peg. The games between Mr. Muntz and Mr. Whitmore were played in first-rate style, the concluding round between Mr. Muntz and Captain Lillie was lingering, and the breaks of no great length.

The whole meeting went off pleasantly. Considering that Moreton is only a small country town, the attendance was decidedly good. The ground was in capital order, and the arrangements admirably carried out, under the management of the local committee.

PRIZE MEETING—ALDERSHOT CLUB.

THE Summer Meeting of the Aldershot Club took place on the 2nd August, with the following result:—The First Ladies' Prize was won by Mrs. Hallowes; the second by Mrs. Williams. The First Gentleman's Prize fell to Captain Hallowes, Captain Fyler winning the second, and beating Captain Bathe, who was considered the strongest player in the Club.

From the great advantages which the Aldershot ground possesses in beauty of position and accuracy of laying, the Aldershot Club promises to be one of the best in England. The play is also remarkably good; the three best gentlemen players being almost in the first rank of skill. The play of the ladies is not quite so good, but this is principally from want of knowledge how to manage the break. The combination at Croquet is much greater than at Billiards, from the fact of there being four balls to play on instead of three. But ladies seldom have the nerve to play on the ball coming next, and are afraid to keep all four balls in play.

MEETING OF THE FOURSHIRE CLUB.

THE First August Meeting for the Ladies' Championship was held on the 3rd of last month, on the pleasaunce at Chastleton House, the seat of Mr. Whitmore Jones. We subjoin the score:—

1ST ROUND.—Mrs. Bromfield beat Miss Wheeler, Mrs. Bullocke beat Miss Rawlinson, Mrs. C. Dickins beat Miss E. Dickins, Miss Whitmore beat Miss A. Hawkins, Miss C. Dickins beat Miss Frances Nutting, Miss Woodman Hastings beat Miss M. Hawkins, Miss Pritchard beat Miss Tompson, Miss Buckworth beat Mrs. Wheeler.

2ND ROUND.—Mrs. Bullocke beat Mrs. Bromfield, Mrs. C. Dickins beat Miss Whitmore, Miss Woodman Hastings beat Miss C. Dickins, Miss Buckworth beat Miss Pritchard.

3RD ROUND.—Mrs. C. Dickins beat Mrs. Bullocke, Miss Buckworth beat Miss Woodman Hastings.

4TH ROUND.—Mrs. Buckworth beat Mrs. C. Dickins.

THE GRAND NATIONAL CROQUET CLUB.

THE brilliant success of the Grand National Croquet Club, in a season not entirely favourable to Croquet, has now placed it beyond doubt that the system pursued by this Club is the one best suited to the country. From the moment of giving up the London ground—a course much lamented at the time by some of the members of the National Croquet Club—the society assumed fresh life and vigour, and has gone forward without a check. The only use of a London ground is for London people, and the effect of having a ground and permanent head-quarters must be to localise a Club. The diverse tendencies of the two systems are well illustrated in the present position of the two leading Croquet Clubs. The one, by carrying its strength and name into different neighbourhoods, and then eliciting and improving latent talent, and enlarging a sound knowledge of the game, has increased its own vigour and importance, while it has done real service to the game; the other, by maintaining a ground that takes a high place amongst the best in England, in a position not inconvenient to metropolitan players, has kept the game within view of the fashionable London world, and forms a useful centre for the numerous players to be found in the county of Surrey.

We hope that these two great Clubs have now settled down amicably into the places which naturally belong to them respectively. There ought to be a good ground near London, with a Club composed of local players and strengthened by some distinguished players from more remote places; there also ought to be, but distinct from the other, a powerful Club with no "local habitation," but consisting of players living in all parts of the country, and possessing skill of all degrees of merit, to carry the game in its best form into various and distant neighbourhoods, and in tournaments held under its patronage and in connection with local Clubs, and attended by some of its own members, who include the best players in the world, develope and improve the game, and promote that unanimity and thorough knowledge of it which have hitherto been lacking. These two kinds of Clubs we believe do exist in the All England Croquet Club and Grand

National Croquet Club; and we heartily wish them success in those two distinct fields of operation which they appear at length to recognise as belonging to them respectively.

The fourth and last tournament for this year, under the auspices of the Grand National Croquet Club, was held at Edgbaston, on Wednesday and Thursday, 23rd and 24th August, in association with the Edgbaston, Handsworth, and Stratford-on-Avon Clubs.

The first day was fine and the attendance good, but the second was so wet and stormy that few ventured to the ground, and the final heat for the Ladies' Match was postponed to the following week. All the arrangements were well made by a mixed committee of Edgbaston and Grand National Croquet Club members, and the two days' tournament was wound up with a ball. Six grounds were provided, namely, three for ladies and three for gentlemen, the hoop for the former being 4½ inches wide, those for the latter 4 inches.

We append the result, so far as it has been supplied to us:—

LADIES.

1st Heat.—Mrs. G. A. Muntz beat Miss Hawkins. Miss Holbeche beat Miss Chance. Miss Cottrell beat Miss Whitehead. Miss Lindner beat Miss Burt. Miss Randell a bye.

Second Heat.—Miss Holbeche beat Mrs. G. A. Muntz. Miss Randell beat Miss Cottrell. Miss Lindner a bye.

Third Heat.—Miss Lindner to play Miss Randell. Miss Holbeche a bye.

GENTLEMEN.

First Heat.—Mr. C. O. Muntz beat Mr. W. H. Holloway (giving 1 bisque). Rev. C. A. Dickins (giving 1 bisque) beat Mr. Hebbert. Rev. A. Law (giving 2 bisques) beat Mr. M. P. Lindner. Rev. G. L. Aston beat Mr. H. Payton. Rev. R. S. Baker (giving 1 bisque) beat Mr. W. Holliday. Mr. G. A. Muntz a bye.

Second Heat.—Mr. C. O. Muntz beat Rev. C. A. Dickins (giving 1 bisque). Rev. A. Law (giving 2 bisques) beat Mr. G. L. Aston. Rev. R. S. Baker beat Mr. G. A. Muntz (giving 1 bisque).

Third Heat.—Rev. A. Law (giving 2 bisques) beat Mr. C. O. Muntz. Rev. R. S. Baker a bye.

Final Heat.—Rev. A. Law (giving 1 bisque) beat Rev. R. S. Baker.

ALL ENGLAND CROQUET CLUB AUTUMN MEETING.

21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, and 25th August.

The indefatigable Honorary Sec., Mr. Walsh, who is temporarily residing in the neighbourhood, got up an extra meeting of this Club. The meeting was well attended, which, considering the season, speaks well for the popularity of the Club and the enthusiam of its members. The meeting was admirably managed, and, strange to say, we heard of no wrangle. We regret to learn the previous meetings have not proved a pecuniary success. It will be strange indeed if the metropolitan players, with a populous district like Wimbledon to back it, cannot manage to make the Club pay its way. We append the score:—

LADIES' HANDICAP.

I.—Miss M. Riley (giving three bisques) beat Mrs. Borritt. Mrs. Holmes (giving five bisques) beat Mrs. Rowlands. Miss E. Walsh (playing even) beat Mrs. Davidson. Miss Walter (giving three bisques) beat Mrs. Hallowes. Mrs. Clare (a bye).

II.—Mrs. Holmes (giving two bisques) beat Miss Riley. Miss Walsh (giving one bisque) beat Mrs. Clare. Miss Walter (a bye).

III.—Miss Walter (playing even) beat Mrs. Holmes. Miss Walsh (a bye).

Miss Walter won the first game of Miss Walsh, but was unable to stay to finish the contest, and the first prize, therefore, fell to Miss Walsh, the second to Miss Walter, and the third to Mrs. Homes.

GENTLEMEN'S HANDICAP.—Hoops 4½ inches. 23 entries.

I.—Mr. Rowlands (giving one bisque) beat Mr. D. L. Heath. Mr. H. Jones (giving three bisques) beat Mr. C. Rowlands. Mr. Gosset (receiving two bisques) beat Mr. Pearson. Mr. James Heath (giving four bisques) beat Mr. G. N. Taylor. Mr. D. I. Heath (giving three bisques) beat Mr. Perkins. Mr. J. H. Hale (playing even) beat Mr. Joad. Capt. Hallowes (playing even) beat Mr. Clare. Mr. Matthews (receiving three bisques) beat Mr. E. Henty. Mr. Fautor (playing even) beat Mr. Hopkinson. Mr. J. A. Walter (playing even) beat Mr. H. Dalton. Mr. Walter (giving one bisque) beat Mr. F. Walsh. Mr. A. G. Murray (a bye).

II.—Mr. H. Jones (giving two bisques) beat Mr. Rowlands. Mr. James Heath (giving three bisques) beat Mr. Gossett. Mr. J. H. Hale (giving one bisque) beat Mr. D. I. Heath. Captain Hallowes (receiving one bisque) beat Mr Matthews. Mr. J. A. Walter (giving four bisques) beat Mr. Fautor. Mr. Murray (w.o.) v. Mr. Walter (absent).

III.—Mr. James Heath (giving one bisque) beat Mr. H. Jones. Captain Hallowes (receiving four bisques) beat Mr. Hale. Mr. Murray (receiving one bisque) beat Mr. J. A. Walter.

IV.—Mr. James Heath (giving three bisques) beat Mr. Murray. Captain Hallowes (a bye).

V.—Captain Hallowes (receiving five bisques) beat Mr. James Heath. Captain Hallowes first, Mr. James Heath second, Mr. Murray, third.

PARTNER PRIZES.

I.—Mr. E. Henty and Mr. H. Black beat Mrs. Walsh and Mr. T. Borrett. Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Hallowes beat Mr. F. Rowlands and Mrs. Clare. Mr. C. F. Dalton and Mr. Holmes beat Mr. D. I. Heath and Mrs. Rowlands. Col. Davidson and Mr. D. Heath beat Mr. Hopkinson and Mrs. Borrett. Mr. C. Rowlands and Miss E. Walsh beat Capt. Hallowes and Miss Riley. Mr. G. N. Taylor and Mrs. Davidson beat Mr. F. Walsh and Col. Bruce. Mr. Clare and Mr. Gossett (a bye).

II.—Mr. Henty's side beat Mrs. Holmes' side. Mr. Dalton's side beat Col. Davidson's side. Mr. C. Rowlands' side (w.o.). Mr. G. N. Taylor's side (a bye).

III.—Mr. Dalton's side beat Mr. Henty's side. Mr. C. Rowlands' side beat Mr. G. N. Taylor's side.

IV.—Mr. Dalton's side beat Mr. Taylor's side. Mrs. Holmes won the ladies' break sweepstakes, and Mr. H. Jones and Mr. E. Henty tied (2nd).

THE END OF THE FIGHT.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—I see a statement by some one in the *Field*, signing himself Mallet, which is very unfair to the Club of which I have the honour to be a member. He says:—"I have heard of some who have more than once contemplated withdrawing from both the great Clubs, and of others who have held back from joining either, until they feel that all differences are accommodated."

This statement is not fair, because we have *no differences* with the All England Croquet Club, nor do we intend to have any. It is true the All England Croquet Club are not friendly with us, but can we force them to be friendly at the point of the bayonet? So far are we from quarrelling that we had rather that no one of that disposition would join us, or indeed any one who made any statement to that effect. But clearly it is impossible for us to prevent unjust, illnatured, or unfounded remarks being made, either with respect to ourselves or on the subject of the game. Certain statements *have been made*, which we have answered. These are now again brought forward. Well, we cannot go on answering for ever. But we can abstain from all controversy, and that we shall do; but if other people like to make themselves disagreeable, that is not to be laid to our charge.

A MEMBER OF THE GRAND NATIONAL CROQUET CLUB.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WHIST.

C.—(1) If you lead out several cards in succession your partner can be required to win any of the tricks. If he cannot win any one there is no penalty, but in the case sent he has a trump and no Club, and it follows that he could have been required to trump your best Club. (2) I drop a card in taking up my hand. It falls face upwards on the table, but in taking it up I do not notice what it is. I am required to put the card on the table. I require my adversary to name it. What is to be done? I cannot put down a card which I do not know.—*Ans.* You have committed a Whist fault, in exposing the card. You have committed a grave error in taking it up. It is a common but erroneous notion that it is your adversary's business to name the exposed card. It is still an exposed card in the eyes of the law, although not seen by either adversary. You are bound to find the exposed card, and must put on the table the one you think was the exposed card, and if that is the wrong one you must put another and another until you put the right one on the table, and all the cards thus shown are exposed cards, and liable to be called. Snatching up the cards is so common that if the proper penalty were inflicted a few times we think the nuisance would be abated.

B. H.—Put up the position as a simple ending, and you will see at once your play must be wrong. You want two tricks to save the game. A has best trump and minor tenace in Spades. You (X) 2nd player losing trump and two losing Hearts. B three best Hearts. Z major tenace in Spades and small Heart. A leads. Whatever he leads he cannot get game against good play. If he lead the best trump he cannot get two tricks unless Z discards a Spade. If he leads the Spade, as you say he did, he can only get two tricks by your trumping. It is folly to suppose, as you appear to do, that it is always good play to make the losing trump. You must look at the consequences of your acts. It is equally folly to suppose that it is always good play to lead the best trump to kill the inferior trump. A took what he thought the best chance he had of winning the game, and he won it. It certainly was not bad play. He could only win the game with the assistance of one of his amiable adversaries. It is a great comfort sometimes to have adversaries.

R. B.—A revokes. Z finds it out before the trump card in the following deal is turned up. Is this too late? The cards are mixed, but the fact is clear.—*Ans.* The revoke penalty cannot be claimed after the cards are cut for the following deal.

HAND No. 100.—F. B. points out that at trick eleven A ought to have led a trump.

O.P.—With Q, Kv and two small cards the proper lead is the smallest. With Q, Kv, 10 and a small one the right lead is the Q. J. C. is silent on the latter lead, but reflection will convince you that the Q is the right card. J. C. never intended to give every lead. He only gave his readers suggestions. He wants you to use your brains and not play by rote.

PIQUET.

C. S.—You are a child at figures. With five cards—good; a tierce to the Kg—good, and 14 tens—good; by the common system of scoring you only get 22. Your adversary counts 5 cards and 3=8 and 5=13 and 14=27. Unless you can correct your adversary's score and check his figures, don't play Piquet, or select your opponents.

J.—I claim five cards—good. I play, and after I have done so I find I was mistaken, and that I had only four cards. Is there any penalty for this?—*Ans.* You can score nothing that hand.

CHESS.

V. G. (Oedenburg).—All your problems shall appear if you will leave them with us. Those last received are very good.

W. Hockin (Truro).—We have addressed a private letter to you explaining matters.

E. F. (Hull).—Many thanks for your valuable information, and for your promise of further assistance.

O. A. Brownson.—The packet referred to contained the problems which you have already published.

F. W.—Problems are *not* end games. Having to examine them, we very often wish they were so.

PAPERS RECEIVED.

Chess Players' Quarterly August; *New York Clipper* 15th, 22nd, 29th July, and 5th August; *Index* 15th, 22nd, 29th July, and 5th August; *Spirit of the Times* 8th July; *New Berlin Schachzeitung*, *Dubuque Chess Club Journal*, *Hartford Weekly Times* 8th, 15th, and 29th July; *Schachzeitung Leipsig*, August; *Sportsman*; *Land and Water*; *Leader*, 3rd, 10th, and 17th June; *Australasian*, 27th May, 3rd, 10th, and 17th June; *Adelaide Observer*, 27th May, and 3rd June.

The Westminster Papers.

2nd OCTOBER 1871.

THE CHESS WORLD.

"The whisperings of our petty burgh."

THE holiday season being over, our Metropolitan Chess players are returning from moor, mountain and sandy beach to their native pavement, no longer looking like summer pippins kept through the winter, but like the "grape of Portugal," all the riper and more generous for their brief experience of the sunshine "off the stones." With renewed strength and energy they are practising "Autumn manœuvres" for the winter campaign, and already the first note of "dreadful preparation" has been heard in the peaceful precincts of Bishopsgate Within.

As usual, our indefatigable City friends are "glittering forth" in the vanguard. A tournament is announced, the conditions of which will be arranged at a meeting of the Members to be held early in October, and doughty deeds may be anticipated; for the combatants expected to enter the lists include the names of Wisker, Potter, Blackburne and Lowenthal. The contest between Mr. Potter and Mr. Wisker, the English Champion, is certain to excite universal interest, for each, like Chaucer's Palamon, is reported "a perfight gentil knight," caring only for Fame when he can "dereyne hir by batayle."

The meeting of Chess players at Malvern was brought to a conclusion under more pleasant circumstances than those which attended its commencement, and the arrangement to meet next year at the same place appears to have given general satisfaction. The victory of Mr. Wisker in the Handicap tourney is another feather in the Champion's cap, and Mr. Skipworth's triumph in the fight for the Challenge Cup is a sufficient answer to the charge of presumption preferred against him by the *Illustrated News*.

A "Good-natured Friend" has sent us a cutting from an "Erratic" Chess column published in a weekly contemporary. The extract is a characteristic specimen of the swash-buckler humour which distinguishes such pot-house publications, and will surprise no one who is informed of the source from whence it emanates, for it is tolerably well known that

" . . . . . My Lord is often thus
And hath been from his youth."

In this particular instance his style suggests a new reading of Lord Palmerston's famous apopthegm, "dirt in some hands is matter in the *right* place."

The *Echo Americano*, a new illustrated weekly paper, published in London, devotes a column to Chess, under the able guidance of Herr Meyer. The number we have seen contains an excellent three-move problem by Mr. Fawcett of Leeds, and a game from Damiano. We wish its learned Editor success.

The Chess column in *Land and Water* sustains the old repute of its veteran and accomplished Editor.

The *Illustrated London News* gives us a Knight's Tour Conundrum, dedicated to Mr. Staunton, by an anonymous admirer.

The *Berliner Schachzeitung* appears as a double number for July and August, and contains a portion of yet another translation of the *Scacchia Ludus* of Vida. There is scarcely any author who has gone through so many editions and translations as Marcus Hieronymus Vida, Bishop of Alba. The *Scacchia Ludus* was published at Rome in 1527, and since then no fewer than twenty-four editions have been published in the original Latin, the last at London in 1813. Of translations there have been eleven in Italian, four in French, and eight in English, including the one ascribed to Goldsmith, which appears in an edition of that poet's works, published by Murray in 1856. The only German translation hitherto noticed in this country is that

printed at the end of Koeh's *Codex* (1814), but we learn from an editorial note that the version now given in the *Schachzeitung* is by Herr Pastor Jesse, and that it was published at Hanover in 1830. It was from Vida that Sir William Jones obtained the idea of his poem, *Caissa*, which Mr. Peter Pratt* described in his *Studies of Chess* as an "elegant embellishment," an "admired effusion," and a "classical offering to Chess."

Our Berlin contemporary cautions its readers against "a person, not unknown in Chess circles," who left England some time since, and is trying to get up, on the Continent, a subscription alleged to be for the benefit of a distinguished foreign player now residing in England. The proceedings of the "person" referred to have never been authorised by the gentleman in whose behalf he exhibits so much benevolent interest, and we much regret that the "person not unknown in Chess circles" has not been more circumstantially described, for the players of such games deserve some punishment beyond the mere suspension of their amusement.

The *Leipsic Schachzeitung* (Editor J. Minckwitz) is, as heretofore, brimful of matter. The problems offer fine studies for our young English composers whose productions, though equal in brilliancy to those of any other nation, want the accuracy which so eminently distinguishes the German School.

A new series of *Sissa*, the exponent of Chess in Holland, was commenced in August last. *Sissa* has now attained to its 25th year, and is still conducted by Herr W. J. L. Verbeek. The first number of the new volume contains a learned article on the Knight's Tour, a number of excellent games by Andersen, Neumann, Suhle, &c., and ten problems.

American Chess displays a vigour and freshness unequalled in any other country. The game as it is practised there is racy of the soil, and exhibits in individual Chess-players the brilliant originality which characterises the nation in all intellectual pursuits.

The *Dubuque Journal* (Editor O. A. Brownson) is as interesting and as fresh as ever. Mr. G. E. Carpenter's *Review of Alexandre* calls for special commendation, and we wish every success to the editor's latest idea—"a Chess-story tournament." Anything which tends to relieve the serious labour incident to the practice of Chess must have the effect of promoting a more general interest in its pursuit.

The *Hartford Times*, to which we had the pleasure of referring our readers some time ago, continues its genial and witty gossip on Chess and Chess players. The following anecdote of President Lincoln is from that paper:—

"President Lincoln was very fond of a game of Chess, and frequently spent the evening with Judge Treat, a near neighbour, in that pastime. Upon one occasion, when little Tad was *along*, the quiet of the game and the loneliness of the room became too trying to his restless nature, and he interrupted the game repeatedly with—'Let's go home, father.' 'Sit down, Tad, sit down,' said Mr. Lincoln. The child kept quiet for a few minutes, but soon broke the silence again. 'Presently, my son, presently,' said the father. Tad waited as long as he could command his temper; then starting up, in a fit of impatience, he tilted the board, throwing the pieces on the floor, and bringing the game to an abrupt termination. Mr. Lincoln made a stride or two with his long legs, overtook the little culprit just before he reached the door, gave him a partial turn over, and raised his broad palm, 'Tad,' said he, 'you little villain, I'm going to give you a good whipping,'—then, pausing, lowering his arm, and letting the child go, he added,—'that is, if you ever do it again.'"

In its desire for the amusement of its readers the *Times* does not omit the "solids," for the column contains capital games and high class problems.

The *Brooklyn Index* (F. E. Brenziger) and the *New York Clipper* (M. J. Hazeltine) have excellent games and problems, and the former editor is—we learn from the *Dubuque Journal*—the best blindfold Chess player in America.

The Australian Chess columns lately to hand are full of the games played in the late Intercolonial match, the result of which we published in our last number.

On Saturday Mr. Blackburne played 10 games blindfold simultaneously, at Manchester, against Messrs. Burnett, Steinkühler, Grubé, Bantock, Gazale, Robey, Johnson, Corlett, Glover, and Wood. He won of Messrs. Bantock, Glover, Johnson, Corlett, Wood, Robey, Steinkühler, and drew against Messrs. Gazale, Barnett, Grubé—a very creditable performance.

* Peter Pratt, of Lincolns Inn, author of the *Theory of Chess* (1799), a work referred to by Professor Allen, the biographer of Philidor, as "the most divertingly absurd of all Chess Books." Some idea of the plan and style of the work may be obtained from the following extract from the author's preface: "The game of Chess, though generally considered as an emblem of WAR—*the blood-stained species of it*—seemed" to him (the author) "more to resemble *those less ensanguined political hostilities which take place between great men in free countries*—an idea which was at once suggested and confirmed by observing that when one combatant is said to conquer another, instead of doing anything like killing or wounding him, he only *ousts him from his place and gets into it himself*." Fortified in this conceit, the ingenious author converts the Pawns into Members of the House of Commons, the Rooks into Peers, while the Queen is transformed into a Minister, and the whole effect of this curious nomenclature upon the notation of the games is ludicrous in the extreme.

REVIEW.

THE POCKET CHESS PROBLEM RECORDER.*

THE *Pocket Chess Problem Recorder*, just published by De La Rue and Co., is a handy little volume, well adapted for the purpose intended. The pieces are printed in ordinary problem type, upon exceedingly fine adhesive paper, and the book contains 64 blank diagrams and 128 pieces of each colour.

Adhesive Chess pieces have been tried before now and failed, for the very sufficient reason that they would not adhere to anything. We have tried the new ones and find that they will "stick," even when crumpled up, which is about as severe (not to say unnecessary) a test as could be applied.

FLODDEN ON THE CHESS BOARD.

THE following little poem, apart from its intrinsic merits, will be read with interest, as the composition of a youth of fourteen,—Master J. A. W. Hunter, of Edinburgh, one of the most promising problem composers of the day.

M ARK them, standing, valiant soldiers,
A ll drawn up in stern array;
Y onder, see their banners floating,

C onquest calls them to the fray.
H ark! their lines are moving onward,
E ager in the strife to meet;
S oon their fates are overshadowed,
S wift pursuit, or skilled retreat.

A ll to battle fast are pouring,
N ow the blood-stained hour is nigh—
D ying, for their Sovereign's safety;

C ravens only fear to die.
H ot and fierce the conflict rages,
E ither side may gain the day;
S kilful bowmen, gallant spearsmen,
S talwart knights lead on the way.

P roudly, 'mid the din and carnage,
L ook, where towers the Royal throne;
A t it fast the foes are pressing,
"Y ield!" they cry, "the day is won."
E arnest fight the falling heroes,
R ound their King, in silence deep;
S peeding on, in whelming numbers,

F ierce their foes relentless sweep.
L oyal, around their King, his soldiers
O ne by one are falling fast;
U rged by vict'ry nigh approaching,
R ush the foe like thunder-blast,
I n destruction, sure and direful,
S hort resistance, onset fearful,
H ath the Monarch fall'n at last.

JAMES A. W. HUNTER, *Edinburgh.*

SOLUTIONS OF TOURNEY PROBLEMS IN THE AUGUST NUMBER.

No. XVIII.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 Kt to Q 3 dble ch	1 K to Q 4 best
2 B to K 5	2 Q or Kt takes B (a)
3 Kt to K B 4 dble ch and mate.	

(a) If B or P checks, Kt to K Kt 3 dis ch mate; and if Q to K sq, Kt to K Kt 5 dis ch mate.

No. XIX.

This problem can be solved in two moves, e.g.

1 Q to K 6	1 Anything
2 Mates accordingly	

No. XX.

1 Kt from Q Kt 6 to B 4	1 Kt to K Kt 4 best
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Anything
3 Q or Kt mates	

No. XXI.

1 B to K B 5	1 Kt or B takes Q (a, b, c, d)
2 Kt to Q B 4	2 Aught
3 Kt mates	
	(a) 1 R takes R dis ch
2 Kt to Q B 4 dble ch and	
3 Q mates	(b) 1 Kt takes Kt
2 R to Q 5 ch and	
3 Kt mates	(c) 1 P to K 3
2 Q takes B and	
3 Q or P mates	
	(d) 1 B takes B
2 Kt takes B ch	2 Q or R takes Kt
3 Kt mates	

No. XXII.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 Kt to K sq	1 R to R sq ch
2 Q takes R ch	2 K moves
3 Q to K 4 ch	3 Aught
4 Q or R mates	

NOTE.—The foregoing is the author's solution, but there is another, commencing 1 Q to Kt 4 ch, followed by 2 K to Q Kt 3.

No. XXIII.

1 R to Q Kt 4	1 Kt moves
2 B to Q B 5 ch	2 Kt takes B
3 Q to Q 6 ch	3 Kt takes Q
4 Kt mates	

If 1 R to K Kt 3 then 2 Q takes B ch &c.

No. XXIV.

1 R to K B 5	1 P to Q B 4 (a, b, c)
2 Q takes B	2 R at Q sq takes Q
3 R to R 5	3 Aught
4 R mates	
	(a) 1 B takes Q
2 R to K B 3 ch	2 K to K 5
3 R to K B 7 dis ch and mates next move	
	(b) 1 B takes R
2 Q to Q B 6	2 R to K 5
3 Q takes P ch and mates next move	
	(c) 1 R to K B sq
2 Kt to K B 2	2 R to K 5
3 Q to Q R 3 ch and mates next move	

No. XXV.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 R to K B 8	1 Q R takes R (a, b, c, d, e, f)
2 R to K 3	2 R to K Kt 8
3 B to K Kt 4 ch	3 R takes B or R to K B 6
4 Kt or B mates accordingly	
	(a) 1 K R takes R
2 B to Kt 4 ch	2 Aught
3 B takes B	3 Aught
4 B takes R mate	
	(b) 1 R takes B
2 R to K 3	2 R to K Kt 8
3 R takes B	3 Anything
4 Either Rook mates as Black plays	
	(c) 1 R to Q sq
2 R takes Kt ch	2 R takes R
3 B to Kt 4 ch, &c. &c.	
	(d) 1 R to K 3 or K Kt 8
2 R takes Kt, &c.	
	(e) 1 B to K B 6
2 R takes B, &c.	
	(f) 1 B to K B 4
2 R to K R sq ch, &c. &c.	

No. XXVI.

1 B to Q 5	1 B takes B
2 Q to Q R 3	2 Q takes Q (a)
3 B takes P mate	
	(a) 2 Q to B 4 or any other [move
3 Q to K B 8 mate	

* *The Pocket Chess Problem Recorder.* Arranged on a novel plan. London: Thos. De La Rue and Co. 1871.

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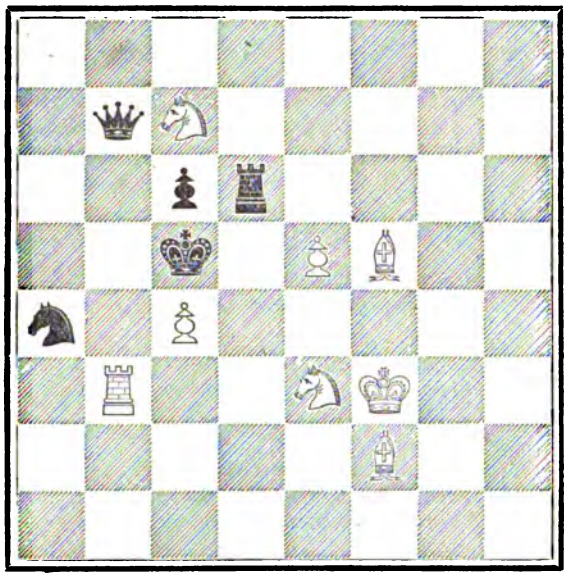
PROBLEMS.

PROBLEM No. XXXVI.—By WM. C. COTTON.

BLACK.

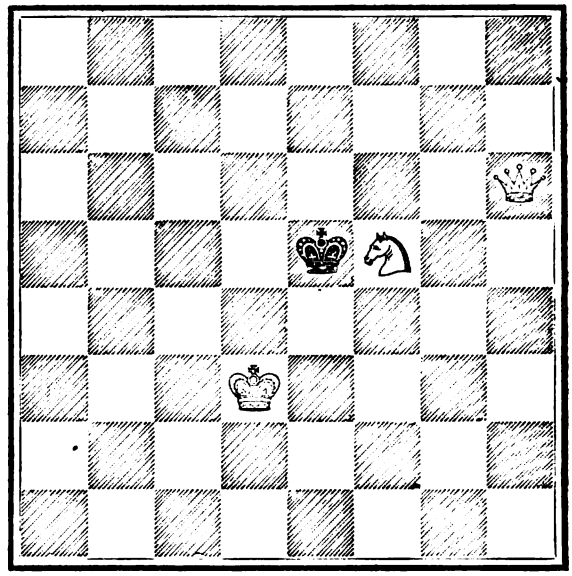


WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. XXXVII.—By E. J. L.

BLACK.

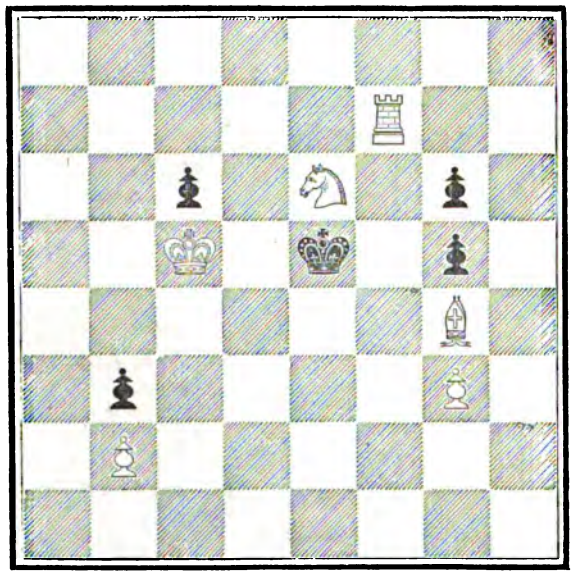


WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. XXXVIII.—By JAMES A. W. HUNTER.

BLACK.

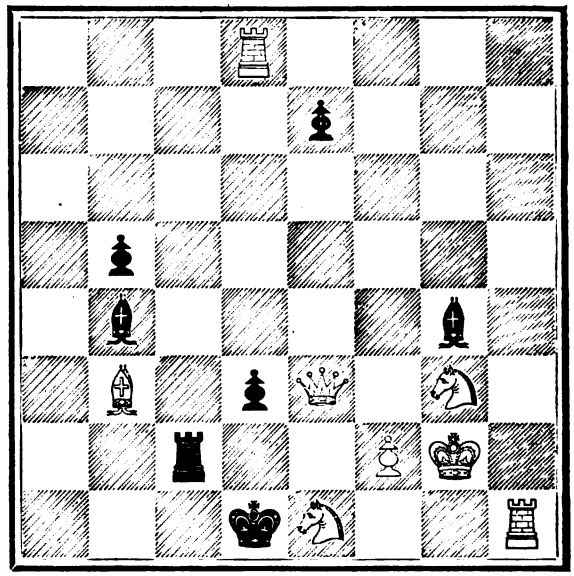


WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

PROBLEM No. XXXIX.—By J. MINCKWITZ
(Editor of the Leipsic Schachzeitung).

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and compel Black to mate in six moves.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEMS IN THE JULY NUMBER.

No. XIV.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 Q to R 5	1 K takes Kt (a)
2 Q to Q R 5	Anything
3 Q mates	

(a) If Bishop moves White plays Q to Q 5 ch, and mates with Q or Kt according to Black's play.

No. XV.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 B to K R 4	1 P takes B (best)
2 R to K 5	2 B to Kt 3
3 R to R 5 ch	3 B takes R
4 P to Kt 4 mate	

No. XVI.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 K to Kt 3	1 P moves
2 P to R 4	2 do.
3 P to R 5	3 do.
3 P takes P mate	

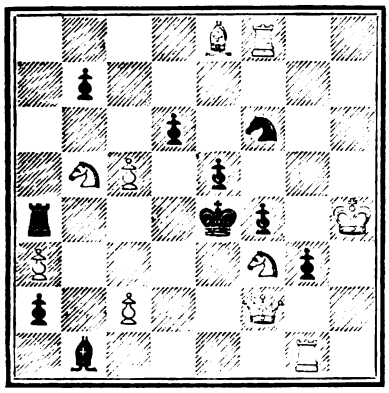
No. XVII.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 Kt to Q B 3 ch	1 K to Kt 7 (best)
2 K to Q 3 dis ch	2 K to Kt 6
3 Q to Q Kt 7 ch	3 Q to Kt 5 interposing
4 Q to K B 7 ch, and wins.	

TOURNEY PROBLEMS.

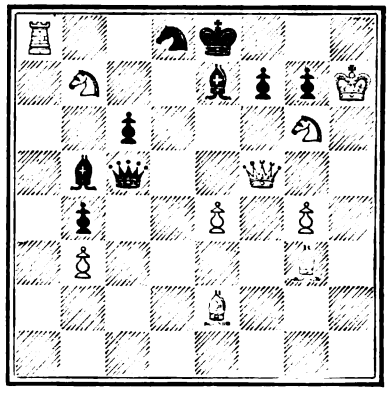
Some of Life's chips.

No. XL.—BLACK.



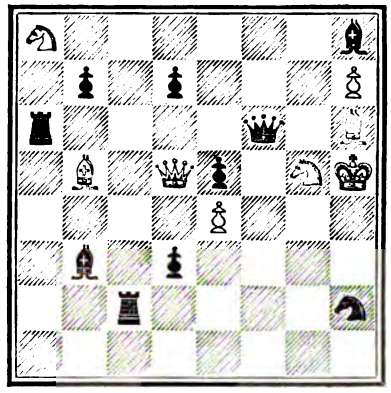
WHITE.
White to move and mate in three moves.

No. XLI.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to move and mate in four moves.

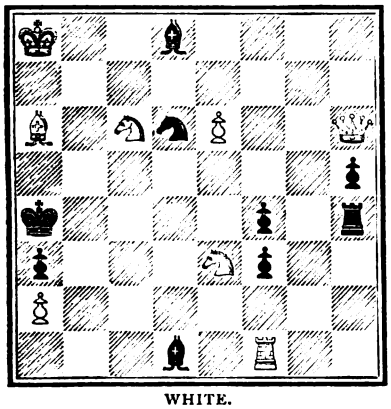
No. XLII.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to move and mate in four moves.

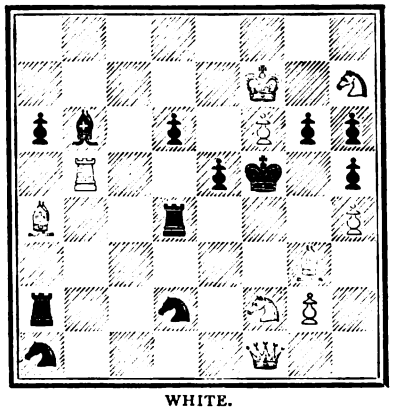
Clavam extorquēre Herculi.

No. XLIII.—BLACK.



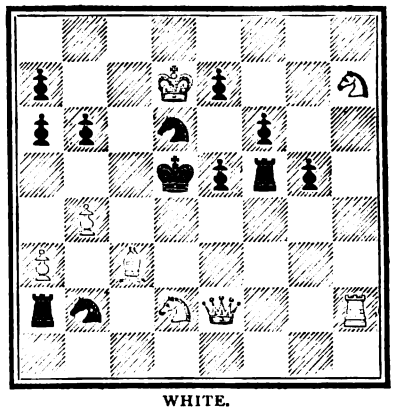
WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. XLIV.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to move and mate in four moves.

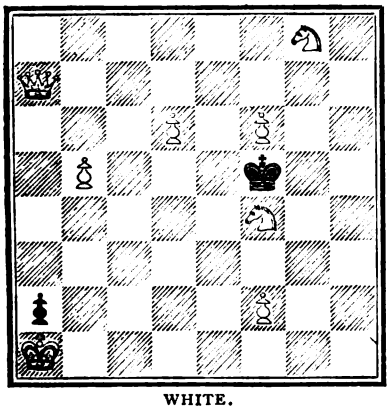
No. XLV.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to move and mate in four moves.

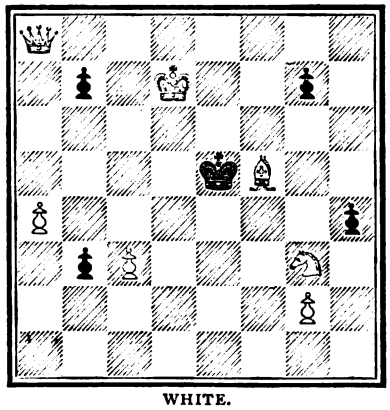
In these problems you may find
Sweetest nut hath sourest rind.

No. XLVI.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

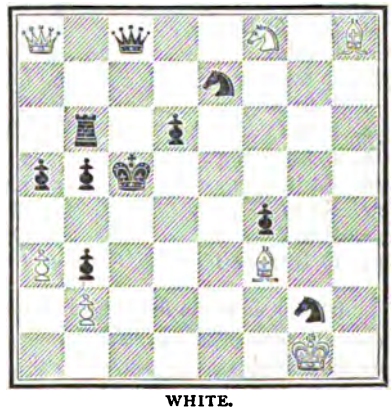
No. XLVII.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

Au revoir.

No. XLVIII.—BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

NOTE.—Nos. 46, 47 and 48 are selection from sets which, upon examination, have been found imperfect.

GAME XLIII.—Played between Messrs. HARRISON and MACDONNELL, at the Westminster Chess Club. 8th February 1870.

Queen's Knight's Opening.

White. Mr. HARRISON.	Black. Mr. MACDONNELL.	White. Mr. HARRISON.	Black. Mr. MACDONNELL.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	12. Q takes K B P	12. K to Q
2. Kt to Q B 3	2. Kt to K B 3	13. P to Q 4 (e)	13. B to K 2
3. P to K B 4	3. P to Q 4	14. Q takes K Kt P	14. R to K B
4. P takes P	4. Kt takes K P	15. R takes R	15. B takes R
5. Kt to K B 3	5. B to K Kt 5 (a)	16. Q takes K R P	16. Q to Q B 5
6. B to Q Kt 5 (b)	6. P to Q B 3	17. B to K Kt 5 ch	17. K to Q B 2
7. B to Q R 4 (c)	7. Kt takes Kt	18. K to Q 2	18. B to Q Kt 5
8. Kt P takes Kt	8. B takes Kt	19. P takes B	19. Q takes Q P ch
9. Q takes B	9. Q to K R 5 ch	20. K to K 2	20. Q to K Kt 5 ch
10. K to Q	10. Q takes B	21. K to B 2	21. R to K B ch
11. R to K B	11. Kt to Q 2 (d)		And wins.

(a) 5. B to Q Kt 5, though not apparently so good as the play of the other Bishop, is preferred by the best authorities. It prevents the advance of the White Queen's Pawn. (b) This brings on black fate at once. The Queen's Pawn should have been played at this point. 6. B to K 2 would not be quite satisfactory, as Black would take off the K Kt, and then check at K R 5 with Queen. (c) Even now, by retiring the Bishop to K 2, White can save his piece, though he incurs thereby the consequences mentioned in the preceding note. (d) 11. Q to K R 5 would also preserve Black's advantage, and perhaps with a smaller outlay of trouble. (e) This is a good move; unhappily for White his adversary's answers are equally good, and thus the first player's efforts to redeem himself come to nothing. Black plays the termination very well.

GAME XLIV.—Played between Messrs. —— and K.

(Muzio Gambit.)

White. Mr. ——	Black. Mr. K.	White. Mr. ——	Black. Mr. K.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	14. Q takes B	14. P to K R 4
2. P to K B 4	2. P takes P	15. Q to K R 4 (d)	15. Q to K Kt 5
3. Kt to K B 3	3. P to K Kt 4	16. Kt to K B 6 ch (e)	16. Kt takes Kt
4. B to Q B 4	4. P to K Kt 5	17. Q takes Kt	17. R to K Kt sq
5. Castles	5. P takes Kt	18. P to K Kt 3	18. P to Q Kt 3
6. Q takes P	6. Q to K B 3	19. R to K B 4	19. Q to K Kt 2
7. P to K 5	7. Q to K B 4 (a)	20. Q to K R 4	20. Kt to K 3
8. P to Q 4	8. Kt to Q B 3	21. R to K B 5	21. Q to K R 3
9. P to Q B 3 (b)	9. K B to K R 3	22. Q R to K sq	22. Q to Q 7
10. Kt to Q 2	10. Kt to Q sq	23. Q to K 4	23. B to Q Kt 2 (f)
11. Kt to K 4 (c)	11. Q to Kt 3	24. Q to K 2	24. Q takes Q
12. B to Q 3	12. Q to K Kt 2	25. B takes Q and resigned in three or four moves.	
13. Q B takes P	13. B takes B		

(a) This move constitutes the Fraser Defence. It is well worth considering, though we doubt whether it is quite equal to the ordinary course of taking the K P, and afterwards playing the Q to K B 4. (b) Taking the K B P with Bishop, and, when the Black Q Kt has captured the Q P, playing Q to Q 5, affords a better chance of getting up an attack than the essentially defensive move of P to Q B 3. (c) 11. B to Q 3 and then Kt to K 4 is preferable, as it prevents Black from establishing his Queen on the advantageous square—K Kt 2. (d) Very feeble. 15. Kt to Kt 5 restricts the action of the Black Queen, and posts the Knight to advantage. (e) Much better to have retreated Q to K B 2. (f) A good move, that decides the game.

GAME XLV.

Between Herr Mincwitz and Dr. Schlöemann.

(Petroff's Defence.)

White. Dr. Schlöemann.	Black. Herr Mincwitz.	White. Dr. Schlöemann.	Black. Herr Mincwitz.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	12. P takes Kt (d)	12. Q takes R P ch
2. Kt to K B 3	2. Kt to K B 3	13. K to B sq	13. Q to R 6 ch
3. Kt takes P	3. P to Q 3	14. K to K 2	14. B P takes P
4. Kt to B 3	4. Kt takes P	15. B to Q Kt 5 (e)	15. Q to B 6 ch
5. P to Q 4	5. P to Q 4	16. K to Q 2	16. Castles Q R
6. B to Q 3	6. Kt to Q B 3 (a)	17. K to B 2	17. P to Q R 3 (f)
7. Castles	7. B to K Kt 5	18. R to K 3	18. Q takes P ch
8. R to K sq	8. P to K B 4	19. R to K 2	19. Q to B 4
9. P to Q B 3	9. B to Q 3	20. B takes R P (h)	20. P takes B
10. Q to Kt 3 (b)	10. B takes Kt	21. B to K 3	21. B to B 5
11. P takes B	11. Q to R 5 (c)	22. K to Q 2	22. P to Kt 4 and wins.

(a) This move is strongly recommended by M. de Jaenisch. (b) White is too hasty in his desire for attack. P to K R 3 would have been much better. (c) The sacrifice of the Kt is perfectly sound, as a little examination will show. (d) He does not appear to have anything better to do. (e) Quite as good as anything else. (f) Best; for now, if White plays

Q takes P — P takes P
Q takes K P — Q to B 2

with the better game. (g) Much better than Q takes Q P, although the latter looks tempting enough. (h) A flash in the pan. If White plays—

20. B takes Kt ch
then 21. P to K 6 ch — 21. K to Q sq
22. Q to B 8 ch — 22. R to K sq
23. P to K 7 ch — 23. K to B 2 (best)
24. P takes B and wins.

GAME XLVI.

A brilliant little Game, played recently in London.

White. Dr. Wilson.	Black. Mr. Collins.	White. Dr. Wilson.	Black. Mr. Collins.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	10. Kt to Q B 3	10. Kt to Q 5
2. B to Q B 4	2. B to Q B 4	11. Kt to Q 5	11. Q to Q 2 (c)
3. P to K B 4	3. B takes Kt (a)	12. R to K Kt 3	12. Kt takes P ch
4. Q to K R 5	4. Q to K 2	13. K to Q sq	13. Kt takes R
5. R takes B	5. P to Q 3	14. R to R 3 (d)	14. P to R 3
6. P to K B 5	6. Kt to K B 3	15. P takes P	15. P to Kt 5
7. Q to K R 4	7. Castles (b)	16. Kt to B 6 ch	16. Kt takes Kt
8. P to K Kt 4	8. Kt to Q B 3	17. Q takes Kt and wins.	
9. P to K Kt 5	9. Kt to K sq		

(a) We prefer P to Q 3 at this point when the game would probably proceed as follows :—

3. P to Q 3
4. Kt to K B 3 — 4. Q Kt to B 3
5. P to Q B 3 — 5. B to K Kt 5

and the position is one which frequently arises in the King's Gambit declined. (b) "Into the valley of death rode the six hundred." The boldness of this manœuvre excites our admiration, but it must be condemned for its temerity. (c) Kt to K B 6 ch,

then K to K 2 — Kt takes Q
Kt take Q ch — K to R sq
R to Kt 4, and White wins the Kt and the game.

(d) He might also have won as follows :—

14. Kt to B 6 ch — P takes Kt (a)
15. P to Kt 6 — P takes P
16. R to R 3, and mates next move.

(a) Kt takes Kt
P takes Kt — P to Kt 3, or anything
Q to R 6, &c.

WHIST.

A and B play against X and Z. A leads. The card with the double rim wins, and the card below the rimmed card is the next one led.

HAND No. 106.

Score—Love all. Z turns up S Kg.

	A. C. Mossop.	X. Martin.	B. Belaieff.	Z. Walker.
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				

HAND No. 107.

A B 4 to 3. Hearts Trumps.

	A.	X.	B.	Z.
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				

HAND No. 108.

Score—Love All. Hearts Trumps.

	A.	X.	B.	Z.
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				

HAND No. 106.

NOTES.—4. We are inclined to think D Kv would have been the best lead. This game presents no salient features. It is an ordinary hand, played in an ordinary way.

HAND No. 107.

NOTES.—1. Why does X not discard a higher Spade, and thus call emphatically for trumps? 3. What occult object has B in playing King in place of Queen? It should be of some value to inform partner how the honours lie, having regard to the score. 7. This play is ingeniously bad. Why should not X trump and play the Diamond? 9. B leads the only suit he should not have led—allowing the weak hand to trump and the strong to discard. There are few errors at Whist more to be avoided, although in this instance the result is not affected by the badness of the play.

PLAYING CARDS.

WE have received Messrs. Hunt's book of patterns for the ensuing season. In our opinion this is the best set it has fallen to our lot to criticise. The designers are either card players, or they have had sufficient sense to be guided by card players on the style of pattern required, and we have therefore a series of cards with coloured backs in all respects adapted to their purpose. Nine-tenths of the patterns (leaving out the drawing-room cards) are uniform, *i.e.* the same at the top as at the bottom. This is a point we have insisted on during our short career with some pertinacity, and, we are happy to say our efforts have been crowned with success. We had reason last year to praise Messrs. Hunt for their enterprise in obtaining artists of repute to assist them in their trade. Mr. Leighton designed a card, then called "the Classic," this year it is called "the Japanese" (1,050). To our fancy the colouring last year was mawkish; the artist appears to have been of the same opinion, for No. 105 (the same pattern in different colours) is as near to perfection as possible; and we trust card designers will study this pattern, and in future take it as their model. We prefer the plain-tinted cards to any others, but if we must have patterns, then let us have the taste and the beauty, but do not let these override utility.

For the drawing-room this pattern ought to be sufficiently beautiful, but as the ladies will have gorgeous cards, without regard to their use, we can recommend "the Kingfisher," No. 132. There is something new to us about the colouring of this card; it appears to us tinted or shaded, and as a work of art is highly creditable. No. 138, on the white ground, is another good ladies' pattern; 135, "the Love Bird," we cannot say pleases our eye. Neither "the Robin" nor "Jenny Wren" affect our hearts. The following are the numbers we prefer amongst the useful cards:—1,250, 125, 910, 91, 930, 96, 42, 43. The dark blue and black grounds show well. "The Grouse" (54) and "the Pheasant" (55) are too large for the cards. For the populace, we have "Dickens," "Scott" and "Tennyson," with "the Foresters and Odd Fellows" thrown in, but with this department we have nothing to do in these pages.

Of Messrs. De La Rue's taste it seems superfluous to speak. They have this year surpassed themselves. Never in the history of their firm have they issued such a beautiful set of designs. The patterns are rich without gaudiness, yet withal every man can find designs to his taste. They too, like Messrs. Hunt, have improved the form of the design, so that, except the show cards, a large majority can be had with the same formation at the top and bottom of the patterns. For the drawing-room it would be difficult to surpass Indian Enamel 250, Indian Jonquil 207, Indian Shawl 229, Oriental 253, 262, 249, Fuchsia 219, Mille Fleurs 170, and the first four on the gold Mogul page; whilst, for practical use, the Chinese Flower 228, 258, 262, 249 and 170, Pompeian Panel 256, Moresque 252, Indian Shield 257. The 2nd and 3rd pages of Gold Moguls, the 3rd page of Figured Moguls, the 4th page of Figured Harrys, are all that players can desire. We observe an improvement in the Club-house card. To what cause to attribute the great advance in the productions of two of our leading makers we know not, but the improvement is manifest. No one who has looked through these two books can doubt that England possesses artists in cards superior to that of any other country, and if manufacturers of other articles take the trouble and spend the money as freely as the card firms do, we shall not be left behind any longer in the matter of taste.

The firm of Messrs. Goodall and Son is one of our oldest and most enterprising. They issue a larger number of patterns than any other firm; their cards are slightly thinner than those of other makers, which is an improvement. The cards remain flat no matter how long they are played with, and, by reason of their hardness and thinness, seldom split. The patterns for the year are good, but they have not advanced at the same rate as Messrs. Hunt and De La Rue. Last year's patterns we did not see, but those of the year before were quite equal in taste to the best of their contemporaries. The first pattern that meets our eye is Series O in the Bezique sets. The colouring of three out of the four is remarkably good. Series N, K and J are very good, also Harry's Series 1 and 2, and Highlanders 1 and 2. We do not recollect to have seen the cheap cards in such good taste elsewhere. Three out of the 94 series, 91, 86, 87, 85, 84, 81, 82, 78, 71, 72, are good serviceable cards, and geometrical. For the drawing-room the most noticeable are the Triton, Bullfinch, Amorini, Ibis and Humming Bird (why the ladies will choose such queer cards we cannot understand).

National Series 94 Convolvulus, Crane, Tudor Rose, Japanese, Fioure, Butterfly, Holly, Mistletoe (an old friend) 83, Vase Pattern 77, 76, 74, and Series L. The purchaser is difficult to please who cannot find here what he wants. The patterns will bear examination, and the more they are studied the better they will be liked.

Messrs. English's cards have this merit. The pips on the court cards are all on the same side, viz. to the left of the pattern, whereas the other card-makers put the pips sometimes on the right, and sometimes on the left. With certain players Messrs. English's system make the fan in the hand slightly smaller, and therefore more convenient to hold. We thoroughly tried these cards two years ago, and found them wear until we were tired of seeing them. The new patterns are few and far between. Two years ago their best ornamental sets were the Penstamon, Balsam, Verbena and Petunia; now the same four are the best, with perhaps the exception of the Ivy with chocolate ground. The useful patterns are 15, 25, 31, 38, 40, 51, 53 and 65. Why cheap cards should be made in bad taste we cannot understand. The colouring, except on those cards called by courtesy ornamental, is, to our thinking, bad throughout, and we can say nothing in favour of Messrs. English's artists' colouring or design. An entire reform is wanted in this department. A cheap card that will wear is evidently Messrs. English's ideal, and so far they have succeeded.

Of Messrs. Willis and Co's· Cards we have never hitherto had an opportunity of speaking. Except at the "Socials," we cannot recall ever having used these Cards. This year Messrs. Willis have sent us their patterns, together with samples of their Cards. Enclosed in each pack is a set of rules for Whist beginners. In the outlandish places where J. C. and Cavendish are unknown, we can easily imagine that these rules will be of use; but fourteen rules can hardly include all the laws of Whist, and the fact that the rules appear to give the law, and give it in an incomplete state, may lead to misunderstanding. But we wander from the subject. The prettiest pattern made by Messrs. Willis is the Convolvulus. This is very good, both in design, and colour. The Drawing Room Cards are the Wild Rose, Christmas Rose, Renaissance, United Service, National, 309 and 210. For practical purposes the best are the Army and Navy, the first and third of the Oriental, 310, 301, 306, 214, 209, and 212. The Club Cards with tinted backs seem good; but it is dangerous to give an opinion upon them without dealing the Cards, and this we have not done. The Cards are strong and useful, but we must wait until next year to report as to their wearing qualities. The patterns are above the average, and superior to any heretofore produced by Messrs. Willis.

The patterns of the other card makers we have not seen. The manufacturers have complied with our former suggestions with such good grace that it seems hard to ask for more. Our contemporary, *The Stationer*, seems to hint that, by reason of the enormous variety of patterns issued, less attention has been paid to the quality of the cards than heretofore, and that the cards are sent out too quickly, and without being properly seasoned. We do not agree with this criticism, although we have noticed a few packs that have warped; but it is well to bear in mind that however much we may admire beautiful designs, we care more for the card itself. We suggest, therefore, that we have patterns in abundance, and we ask the manufacturers to stay their hands, and have no new designs for the present. The card itself may be improved by making it thinner, of better quality, and of smaller size. It cannot be expected that the card makers will decrease the size of the cards except when introducing a new pattern, because that which is a good pattern on the present card would be a very bad pattern on a smaller card. The most convenient size, to our thinking, is that supplied to the Clubs by Messrs. Bancks. It is certain that card players are very Conservative in their tendencies, and consequently averse to change; but whilst on the one hand the people at large are more Conservative in their views (and properly so), the card players, if we read the signs of the times aright, are less so than formerly. We think Messrs. De la Rue might now, without risk, venture to introduce the cards they had designed many years ago, with new Kings, Queens and Knaves. We hope we shall not shock our readers very much by this suggestion. We think we have had enough of the horrible figures on the faces of the cards, and as Messrs. De la Rue have expended their money on new designs, we think the public would now buy the cards; at any rate, the risk would be very small. Messrs. De la Rue were, we think, only in advance of their time, and we are now sufficiently educated to bear the change. If they will manufacture a few of the improved designs, we think we may answer for their gradual introduction into the card world.

THE SIMPLEST FORM OF ENDINGS.

No. VIII.

A's HAND.—D 6; H Kg, 10. X's—C A; H A, Q. B's—S Kg, Kv; H 6. Z's—D A; S Q, 8.

Diamonds trumps. A to lead, and A and B to make two tricks.

No. IX.

A's HAND.—S Q, 10, 7. X's—H Q, 9; D 6. B's—H Kg; S 3; D 7. Z's—S Kg, Kv; D 8.

Diamonds trumps. A to lead, and X and Z to make three tricks. Nos. 8 and 9 are given to show the folly of always utilising the losing trump.

No. X.

A's HAND.—H Q, 9, 8. X's—H Kg, 10, 7. B's—S Kg, 9; D 7. Z's—H A, Kv; S Q.

Clubs trumps. A to lead, and X and Z to make all three tricks.

No. XI.

A's HAND.—H A, Kg, 7. X's—D A; H 9; C 10. B's—C A; H Kv, 10. Z's—S Kg; C 7; H 8.

Clubs trumps. A to lead and make three tricks.

WHIST LAW AND WHIST ETIQUETTE.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—All Whist players are aware of the distinction between Whist Law and Whist Etiquette. Both are equally binding on gentlemen. The latter is not binding on the Whist-playing cad. I desire, with your permission, to bring this point more prominently before the Whist community. Our law makers appear to have legislated on the assumption that all Whist players are gentlemen (which they are not), and this to my mind is blunder No. 1. There never was made a good law founded on a fallacy, and no proposition can be sounder than in law making all make-believes should be eschewed. The foundation being rotten, the structure must be unsafe. The cad does not care for etiquette; he leads a winning card, and, by act or manner, intimates that it is a winning card; he shrugs his shoulders when the suit he desires led does not come from his partner; he asks to see the last trick, so that his partner may see he has Blue Petered; he asks what are trumps with such significance that another cad will lead them; he replies to an irregular question, such as—Who dealt? Having revoked, he covers his revoke by revoking again; he bets with outsiders without satisfying the table. As an outsider, he walks round the table, and then, in all innocence, shows by his face which is the winning side; he talks with an outsider in a whisper, audible to some of the party, and so on, *ad infinitum*, and for these offences I have no remedy but to decline to cut into the table. I cannot keep this bear out, but he can keep me out, so that the wrong-doer has an extra number of rubbers, whilst the upholder of the laws is kept out of the table. Surely this is a queer kind of justice that punishes me because another persistently ignores the usages of society. The disease I have pointed out; the remedy is a sham. There is not a Club in London where it has not been tried; the table broken up day after day, and all to no effect. In a matter where comfort is concerned, one disagreeable man can destroy the pleasure of five. I say this is not right, and I appeal to your powerful aid to try and remedy this injustice. If, in the opinion of a majority of the table, a player habitually disregards the etiquette of the game, I suggest that such majority ought to be able to say to the Committee, "This man is guilty of conduct unbecoming a gentleman, and as such he is not a fit member of our Club; we ask you, therefore, to put the law in force, and get rid of him." I am not aware that this has ever been tried, but I cannot at all see why it should not prove a success. The whole conduct of a Club is regulated by etiquette, and etiquette cannot be stronger in favour of the culprit because it is written. The *lex scripta* is equally binding as the *lex non scripta*. The Club Code contains no law as to spitting on carpets, or swearing, or doing anything unseemly. It is assumed that members behave as gentlemen, or they will be expelled; and if, in the matter of Whist, a player does that which (although called etiquette) is conduct unbecoming a gentleman, why should not the law be put in force, and thus relieve me from the nuisance of sitting out day after day, whilst the irregular player gets an undue share of games?

There is another point that requires ventilation. How far is it in accordance with etiquette for a player, ignorant of the principles of the game, to cut into a good table? Of course we cannot always get players of the same strength, and I am not at all squeamish as to the quantity of knowledge a player should possess, but I submit that he should know *something* before he is allowed to enter a good table. I am not a maniac about book knowledge. It is immaterial to me whether Hoyle or Matthews, J. C. or Cavendish be the guide. I could even put up with Captain Crawley. I do not care how little a man knows if he will bring the brains he may possess to bear upon the matter in hand; but that a man without brains, or without attempting to learn, should be at liberty to destroy the pleasure of four or five people, and deliberately, and, as it were of malice aforethought, to lose some unfortunate's money is to me past a joke, and worthy of the attention of our leaders.

DELTA.

CROQUET.—THE CONFERENCE.

THE Laws of Croquet, drawn up by a Conference of Clubs in 1870, were, as every one interested in the subject knows, revised by a self-appointed Committee in 1871; but so badly did the usurping power set about its work, and so great and foolish were the blunders made, that the code 1871 has virtually remained a dead letter ever since, the decisions given by umpires during the year having been almost invariably laid down according to the original code of 1870. This was a natural result of the extraordinary mistakes made by the Committee, for, as we pointed out in our article on the revised code, many of the new laws were unintelligible, and some contradicted themselves. Umpires and referees naturally fell back on something they could understand, and this proceeding was generally accepted by players. Whether any of the framers of the code ever attempted to decide disputes by the darkness of their own laws we cannot say, but this is certain, that so bad were these laws that on our pointing out the list of mistakes, inconsistencies, and blunders with which the code abounds, there was no one sufficiently hardy to stand up in its defence.

Yet even had the code been a good one, instead of what it is, there would have still been a danger had

the Clubs accepted it unconditionally, for it had ceased to be the code of the Secretaries. Whether these latter were in any way consulted as to the changes to be made we cannot say, but if they were, it is impossible to suppose their advice was taken—and indeed the Committee held a sole and irresponsible authority, so long as they were allowed the power of constituting themselves. If not questioned as to this assumed authority of theirs, they had full liberty to reject any sound or sensible advice, a liberty of which they appear to have been aware, and of which they certainly made full use. But this is only the natural result of doubtful authority and unfounded title. A body of men whose power is clearly defined and justly derived can afford to listen to and accept advice; whereas a power uujustly assumed lies under a sort of necessity to assert itself by accepting nothing unless it emanates from itself.

There can be little doubt, however, that after the meeting of the next Conference, changes to be made in the laws will be effected in the best and simplest manner by means of a Committee, while it is equally clear that the general meetings of 1869 and 1870 left their work uncompleted, in not setting up some machinery of the sort to deal with future required alterations. Such a Committee could only be nominated directly by the Conference; and it should be composed of the most experienced players, without any reference to party questions, or personal feelings of any kind. The Secretaries are now suffering from this incompleteness of their labours in 1870, which will necessitate their reassembling before the season of 1872, for it has been plainly intimated that no authority can or will be acknowledged except that of the Conference, or directly derived from it. In 1870 the code produced was clearly stated to be provisional, and for 1870 only. That being the case, there could be no copyright beyond that current year, whatever opinion may be stated to the contrary. All property in the code 1870 has we imagine ceased, or if it exists at all it has reverted to the Secretaries, who only made a grant of it for a fixed determinable period. Under these circumstances, and considering the wretched and extreme faultiness of the last revision—a faultiness admitted on all hands—we incline to the opinion, that the Conference had better take up their work where they left it, passing over the unauthorised version of 1871, and proceeding to alter and amplify the clear and simple but not quite efficient code of 1870.

Something has been urged as to the expense to which the Secretaries will be put by being again called to London from all parts of the country, but this is a necessity of the situation. This third meeting will crown the labours of the two first, which will have proved useless without it. The third meeting will, in the plain Saxon way of putting it, "pay for all." It may also be the means of finally getting rid of those old disagreements and jealousies, owing to which half of the valuable time disposable for the better framing of the laws was wasted in 1869 and 1870. We trust there will be no attempt in any quarter to set up an undue weight at the meeting. It is clear that no one Club can possess any sort of authority to control the Conference, for in that case the laws would not be those of the Secretaries, but of an individual Club. The matter would not be mended, if a conflict should take place between any two Clubs for such preponderance. We are inclined therefore to think that the suggestion made at the commencement of the season, that each Club should be represented by one single delegate, is the best and surest way of obtaining a free and fair discussion. Any other course may possibly lead (though we will not say it must of necessity do so) to the resuscitation of old feelings of animosity which ought to have been long since forgotten, and which must necessarily die out, if not wilfully revived by individuals. Again, though two leading Clubs entertaining opposite opinions might counterbalance each other to a certain extent, yet the danger would still exist of the laws not being discussed on their merits, but with reference to the fact of their having been brought forward by one or other of the emulating parties. This would not be the case were single delegates only admitted. Each member would then obtain due hearing, and carry proper weight as representative of such and such a Club; but would only carry his point according as the meeting valued his experience, or was convinced by the justice of his arguments. We do not hesitate to say, therefore, that the best means of obtaining a thoroughly good code would be for every Club to send a single representative. The motive of any opposition to this proceeding will certainly wear the appearance of a desire to maintain the supremacy of a Club or party.

We anticipate no difficulty whatever in the formation of a Committee by the Conference, for any necessary revision of laws after 1872. There may be several qualifications necessary for a law-giver, but there is one which is indispensable—experience. Let every other consideration be banished but this one. It is easy to judge who are the most experienced players, for these can be none others but the best players. If each member of the Conference were to write down who, in his opinion, are the nine best players, there could be no question as to the fitness of the body appointed. There could be very little difference of opinion on this subject, for there is just about this number of players who happen to stand prominently forward as the best; and for any one to exclude first-rate and bring forward second-rate players in his vote, for party purposes, would hardly be possible. Again, if any one will take the trouble to put down and then classify the names of the nine best players (and as to seven there can be no difference of opinion whatever), a choice, based on this criterion will be found to give no undue preponderance to either one of the leading clubs. It has been said that it is not every good player who is capable of framing good laws. This may be allowed; but he is almost invariably a judge of what is a good or bad law; and, in a committee of nine, there could be no lack of talent in the clerical part of the business. These, however, are all matters for further consideration. One great question is before the Croquet world to-day: How and when shall the Conference assemble? And are

the laws which they will construct to be made the means of giving especial advantages or prominence to any particular Clubs? We think that all Croquet players who really value the game will answer this question in the negative, and that the real criterion of disinterestedness will be the acceptance of the Conference Laws as a general code, but as one not conferring especial right or privilege on either one of the equally balanced and emulating powers.

WORTHING CLUB *v.* SUSSEX COUNTY CLUB.

THIS was a return match, and ended in a complete victory for Worthing. We subjoin the score:—

Mr. A. Henty and Miss Podmore beat Mr. H. Soames and Miss B James. Mr. Hargood and Miss Henty beat Mr. A. W. Soames and Miss A. Flight. Mr. Joad and Miss Wood beat Major Lane and Miss F. S. Smith. Mr. Henty and Mrs. Joad beat Mr. W. A. Soames and Miss Turner.

The first match between these two Clubs was won by the Sussex County Croquet Club; but on that occasion the Worthing Club was not represented by its best players. The last contest seems to place Worthing at the head of the Southern Clubs, and, with the exception of the Fourshire, it is perhaps the strongest private Club in England. Mr. Soames and Major Lane are amongst the best players of the All England Croquet Club.

MOFFAT TOURNAMENT.

WE subjoin the score of the Moffat Tournament, held on Tuesday the 14th September. This is the principal event in the North. The Tournament ended in a victory for Scotland, Mr. Macfie beating Mr. Lillie in the last round three games out of four. When we say that Mr. Lillie has been victorious over, or played even against, almost every player of note in the South, with the exception of Mr. Peel and Mr. Whitmore, this will place Mr. Macfie very high in the list of players.

I.—Mr. Macfie (the champion of Scotland) beat Mr. Stewart. Miss Bloomfield beat Miss E. Dobie. Mr. Oliphant beat Miss Dickson. Miss Logan beat Miss J. Dobie. Mr. Forrest beat Miss Edith Murray. Mr. Lillie beat Mr. Harkness.

II.—Mr. Macfie beat Miss Bloomfield. Mr. Oliphant beat Miss Logan. Mr. Lillie beat Mr. Forrest.

III.—Mr. Macfie beat Mr. Oliphant. Mr. Lillie (a bye).

IV.—Mr. Macfie beat Mr. Lillie.

CROQUET LAWS.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—There is a rumour that there is to be another Conference for the Revision of the Croquet Laws. You can perhaps say if such a thing is to take place, or not. But if so, as a Member both of the All England Croquet Club and the Grand National Croquet Club, and wishing well to both Clubs, but better to the Laws, I protest beforehand against either Club being placed in such a position that it can decide any question by a packed vote, and over-ride the wish of the majority. As to the late Revising Committee, it has come to my knowledge that some of the best players in England were excluded from it on the grounds of personal dislike, and I therefore consider that it has forfeited all claims to our confidence.

I enclose my card, and remain, yours faithfully,

24th September 1871. A MEMBER OF THE A.E.C.C., AND THE G.N.C.C.

[We agree with our correspondent, and think that if the Grand National Croquet Club and All England Croquet Club are to be represented in stronger form than other Clubs, an equal number from both Committees should be admitted to the Conference, which would prevent the Laws adopted being virtually the Laws of one particular Club. Is our correspondent correct as to the exclusion of certain players from the Revising Committee? We can hardly think so. Such a course would be so suicidal, and so evidently destructive of the power of any Committee that we hesitate to accept the statement made, however pointed.—ED.]

DRAMATIC NOTES.

ONCE more the whirligig of time has brought us round to that pleasant period of the year when the days draw in and theatres re-open their doors. Fresh activity begins to prevail in and about the Strand at the magic hour of seven o'clock, and the critics take their places in the stalls by the score, intent on pooh-poohing the latest effort of the dramatic author; for a great change has set in, and the unanimous praise of two years ago is replaced by condemnation wholesale in some quarters, and by the faint praise which damns in others. In the excitement of the moment, the blank time of the summer and the beautiful new projects for a national theatre which marked that era, are equally forgotten. The town was never before so completely denuded of

theatres as in August last, and it may be recorded as a curious fact that the only theatres that have remained open through the entire summer are the Adelphi and Princess's—two establishments that had been thought to have been left behind by their more modern rivals. The heat was certainly intense, for the sun had to make up for lost time, and the extraordinary effect produced on Mr. Sothern by its malignant rays became contagious. Theatre after theatre succumbed to this baneful influence, including the Gaiety, which had been opened for the performance of legitimate drama by the ill-fated Walter Montgomery. Of this speculation, having regard to what has since happened, it does not become us to say more than that it occurred under unfavourable conditions in every way, and was not likely to be successful. The Opera Comique, suddenly opened for a performance, by indifferent *artistes*, of Moliére in English, was as suddenly shut up; and the Charing Cross, taken by Mr. Edward Hastings for the productions of unacted authors, more particularly Sir Charles Young, having managed to keep its doors open till after the heat of the sun had subsided, at last succumbed to the circumstance of Mr. Hastings having to resume his professional duties at the Prince of Wales's. Two new diseases are thus added to the theatrical pharmacopeia, for the benefit of managers in distress. But whatever pecuniary reward may have followed the enterprise of Mr. Hastings, he is no less deserving of very high praise for his spirited venture, and it is by such means as these that the interests of the stage will be best promoted. Meanwhile, nothing has been heard of the new project for a national state or capitalist-aided theatre, of which we spoke in the August number of these *Papers*. Paragraphs went the round of the press to the effect that an important and influential meeting had been held at the Local Board of Health, kindly lent by Government for the occasion, and that great movements had been decided on. The programme of these movements was not confided to a benighted public, which waits with anxiety their being set afoot. After all, what necessity is there for a new venture? Have we not the Queen's Theatre, where capital in abundance is to be found, and where plays of the highest, most legitimate, and most original character are provided by the genius of the Local Board, and given effect to by Mr. and Mrs. Rousby.

Proceeding to an investigation of the novelties of the season, we find that there is this year a rush on "romantic" drama. No less than three of the new plays of the month—*Hinko* at the Queen's, *Fanchette* at the Lyceum, and *Rebecca* at Drury Lane—are so styled, whilst modern comedy is strangely enough represented singly by Mr. Albery's *Apple Blossoms*, putting aside *Caste*, which is a revival. We fear that the indifferent success achieved by *Hinko* will not stimulate Mr. Wills to provide us with another romantic play. We cannot account for its failure to attract the public; and it is surely as good a play as *Joan of Arc*, and Mr. and Mrs. Vezin are as surely immeasurably superior to Mr. and Mrs. Rousby. And yet, from some cause or other, perhaps from the absence of the co-operation of the Stereoscopic Company, *Hinko* is played to a half-empty house. Mr. Wills himself is not blameless in the matter: his play is by far too long, is badly constructed, and rejoices in a hero who could not possibly succeed in gaining the affections of an average audience. When a man makes love, as Hinko does, to one woman till within a few minutes of the fall of the curtain, and then marries another, the romantic feelings of the pit, not yet sophisticated to the habits of their betters, receive a shock. The process of mental tossing up whether he shall die, or live degraded, which is gone through by Hinko in the second act, though finely conceived by the author and executed by the actor, does not interest the audience, which speedily transfers its sympathies to King Wenzel, a vigorous and full-blooded conception, about whom there is, in the phraseology of the pit, no humbug. This character, remarkably well acted by Mr. Rignold, who however infuses a spice of low comedy into it probably not intended by the author, indulges in no philosophical speculations, and is not infirm of purpose, and therefore becomes the hero in the eyes of the audience, with whom a hero must always behave as one, never swerving from his original love, and always consistent in his actions. From this point of view the last act, though improbable in incident, is the most effective, the generous struggle between Hinko and King Wenzel being maintained heroically on both sides. If Mr. Wills objects to our criticism as being mean and narrow, he must remember that as he has chosen to cater for the audience of the Queen's Theatre, not an enlightened one, we are endeavouring to account for the partial failure of his play in their eyes. The beauty and depth of the dialogue are undeniable, and its merits may be appreciated by comparing it with the next romantic play on our list,—*Fanchette*, apparently produced for no other purpose than to display the supposed talents of Miss Isabella Bateman, a sister of the celebrated Leah. To this end Mr. Bateman, with true paternal care, has taken the Lyceum Theatre, an expensive and ill-omened establishment, has liberally mounted *Fanchette* with scenery and decorations, and has engaged such actors as Mr. Irving and Mr. Belmore to buttress up his daughter with their names; a plentiful supply of bouquets is nightly laid on, and an energetic body of young men applaud unceasingly from the back benches of the pit. All this expenditure and diplomacy is of no avail, and the audience are lost in amazement at seeing Messrs Irving and Belmore—who of all actors require character parts to distinguish themselves in—playing dummy to a buxom and robust Will o' the Wisp, who, though she may have known the whole secrets of stage business since she was a baby, has by no means sufficient dramatic talent to uphold the Lyceum Theatre on her shoulders alone. We doubt even whether the "opinions of the Press," duly advertised though they are, will serve to prop up *Fanchette*, although the *Morning Post* thinks that no actress of modern times ever made a more auspicious *debut*, and the *Standard* prophesies an unlimited run. Here is criticism indeed!

The Drury Lane Annual is generally sure of success, and with the aid of our country cousins, who have taken the national theatre under their especial protection, *Rebecca* will probably run till Christmas, when it must make way for the inevitable pantomime. Sir Walter Scott is now the guardian angel of Drury Lane, and whilst some five and twenty of his novels remain for their use, Messrs. Chatterton and Halliday may regard their public career with safe equanimity. It would almost seem unnecessary to go to the expense of engaging a company, though that company is, with one or two exceptions, composed of hired hacks. When Mr. Bellew, a short time ago, embellished his readings of Shakspeare, with dummy figures on the stage, who followed his motions, the idea was received with some favour. Why should not Mr. Chatterton follow this example, and place Mr. Bellew or Mr. Phelps in the orchestra to read Sir Walter, filling his stage with cheap supernumeries, who, by striking picturesque attitudes and stalking about, might fill up the intervals between the evolutions of the ballet, and the prancing of the real horses? As it is, Ivanhoe has been ruthlessly cut up in behalf of the scenic artist and the ballet master. Cedric and Athelstane appear in the first act, to be seen no more. Gurth and Wamba are worn down to shadows, and the bold Black Knight, Richard I., is reduced to a singing gentleman, who beguiles a carpenter's scene with his vocalisation. Mr. Halliday has struggled to give prominence to Isaac of York and his daughter Rebecca, but through the incapacity of the adapter or the actor, Isaac, represented by Mr. Phelps, who never appeared to greater disadvantage, becomes a mere tremulous old bore. But in spite of all their efforts, neither carpenter nor scene painter can reduce to nonentities the characters of Rebecca and Sir Brian de Bois Guilbert, perhaps the finest conceptions in the whole range of Scott's novels. Miss Neilson as Rebecca looks pretty, which is a good deal, and acts her best, which is not much. Her accentuation of certain words is still execrable, and it would be a charity to herself and to her audience if she were exhibited in a play in which she has no *f-a-a-ther*. Of the character of Sir Brian, however cut down, an average actor can always make much; and the performance of Mr. Dewhurst, a new name to London, is the best feature of the evening. But all scope for acting is baned, as it is intended to be, by the groupings, the ballets, the tournaments; and the loudest applause is called down by the fight between Ivanhoe and Sir Brian, which is a creditable thing of its kind, and must have been painfully rehearsed by Messrs. Howard and Dewhurst.

But after all, Sir Walter Scott, however mangled, is preferable to Mr. Albery, and the unmeaning spectacle of *Rebecca* must be pronounced superior to the vulgar modern comedy of *Apple Blossoms*. If modern comedy—a form of the drama that has been much praised in these columns—is for the future to be framed after the model of *Tweedie's Rights* and *Apple Blossoms*, it had better be summarily suppressed at once. Shortly after the production of *Apple Blossoms* at the Vaudeville, Mr. Robertson's best play, *Caste*, was revived at the Prince of Wales', and the contrast between the two must strike the most superficial observer. Both profess to be comedies of the day, but as May Fair is to Whitechapel, as Hyperion to a Satyr, as Hamlet to Bombastes Furioso, so is *Caste* to *Apple Blossoms*. In the former the construction of the plot is as symmetrical as the dialogue is witty and refined; in the latter the plot is a mass of incongruities, and the dialogue is forced, overstrained, and in parts inconceivably dirty. Mr. Albery—always inclined that way—has stuffed the dialogue in *Apple Blossoms* with coarse inuendoes; and his audience, itself as degraded in comparison as the play it listens to is to *Caste*, applauds with that odious deprecatory chuckle which signifies enjoyment under protest. Of construction there is none, and this is a failing that extends to all lately-produced plays, whether romantic drama or modern comedy. The first act shows us the exterior of a village inn of the humblest order; the second the interior of the same hostelry, in the shape of a large room, big enough for a grand hotel, in which all the characters of the play, innkeeper and all, are living on familiar terms. The meeting over the fountain in the *Two Roses* is repeated over an apple basket in the new play, and the tableau of the first act, in which a father disinherits his son, and a girl parts from her lover, is adorned with a universal chaffing of the characters by a comic personage who has nothing to do with the plot. The whole piece is a mere burlesque, and as such befits the management of Messrs. James and Thorne, from whose society Mr. Montague has now retired. His place as a lover is filled by Mr. Lin Rayne, who is neither better nor worse than his predecessor. The art of love making is at present in abeyance on the stage, and it would be difficult to point to any actor under the age of forty who can make love with any feeling. Mr. Coghlan, who replaces the late Mr. Younge in *Caste*, has as much idea of the amatory art as Mr. Montague had in *School*, and though many years younger than Mr. Younge, and by far better looking, fails to make the same impression as George D'Alroy. A degeneracy of sensibility has set in, as well as that physical degeneracy mourned by Mr. Disraeli. Our old actors put our young ones to shame in the art of making love; and as a physical fact, their voices are better and stronger. Hoarseness falls foul of our younger elocutionists, and some of the best efforts of Mr. Vezin and Mr. Rignold in *Hinko* are rendered ludicrous by the thickness of their voices.

The proceedings at other theatres do not call for much notice. The *Woman in White* is being dramatised for the Olympic, and a new comedy by Mr. Byron is to be produced at the Globe, now presided over by Mr. Montague. Mr. Sothern is going to America, and, as a farewell, is giving his most popular impersonation at the Haymarket. He has announced, with much flourish of trumpets, his intention of setting aside the proceeds of a parting benefit night for the use of the Theatrical Fund. As he has about as much real claim to a benefit as Baron Rothschild, we cannot perceive the vaunted generosity. He has lately been

pourtraying the slightly exaggerated virtues of David Garrick; and as a set-off the Holborn Theatre has been re-opened with a drama delineating the supposed vices of Edmund Kean. This is hardly fair to the latter, but the system is perhaps useful in checking equally the enthusiasm of the lauders and detractors of the stage. Somebody has been found venturesome enough to re-open the Royalty Theatre; the Surrey is again under the auspices of Mr. Shepherd; and the St. James's is turned into a probably temporary home of English opera. Meanwhile the Gaiety Theatre, for the management of which we have an intense admiration, pursues the even tenour of its way: Mr. Hollingshead, bound by no traditions, and tied to no particular styles, gives his patrons in turn tragedy, comedy, farce, *opera bouffe* and burlesque, with an accompaniment to all of well favoured young ladies. Whatever may be the nature of the entertainment, the visitor to the Gaiety may count on an exhibition of the undraped female form, as adorned and decorated by Mr. Alfred Thompson. Let him be content with this, and not seek refreshment from the hands of the houris of the lobbies. The consequences may be bad for his purse and worse for his temper, and he will probably sigh for the advent of a second Macready to make a clearance of this nuisance; or rather, being a visitor to the Gaiety, he will more probably like the persecution, and enjoy being fleeced.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WHIST.

S.L.A.—A alleges that he called 2 by honours, B (his partner) having got 2 by cards in addition marked 2 only; A calls B's attention to the fact that he has not scored 4. Neither of the players at the table heard A's claim, but an outsider on being appealed to stated that the claim was made. Is this sufficient?—*Ans.* A's statement must be taken to be true. The reference to the outsider is of value only so far as it shews that A's claim was audibly made, and to that extent it is satisfactory to the other players. The claim should be audibly made, and here it was so made, although from inattention or talk the claim was not heard. A player is not bound to scream.

B.N.D.—(1) The revoke cannot be claimed after the cards have been cut for the following deal. (2) The pack cut proves to be imperfect, can the revoke penalty then be claimed.—*Ans.* We think not; but we are not aware the case has been decided. It seems to us that the law introduced a limit as to time for claiming the revoke, and it must be assumed this was for some good object. This object and limit appear to us the same whether the pack be imperfect or not.

C. A. L.—We want two tricks, my partner leads King of trumps, I have Ace, 10 of trumps and throw down the cards, which is clearly game. My adversary claimed to call my Ace to my partner's King, and that gentleman alleging that this was right, I gave in, but it seems to me that it ought to be considered that I played the 10 to my partner's King, as of course I should.—*Ans.* —The call of the Ace is quite right; if you play in the ordinary way you win the game, but you play on an extraordinary system, and must take the consequences.

T. H. R.—Right hand adversary originally led trumps, the player to the left put on the 5, my partner won with the 6. At the end of the hand; my partner led a 13th card. We want two tricks to win game. I had Ace 10 of trumps and I pass it, thinking that if I keep quiet with my Ace and 10 I must get two tricks. My partner blew me up, and said I ought to have played the 10. *Ans.*—We agree with your partner.

D.C.—Any card dropped on the table, although completely covered by another card, is in the eyes of the law an exposed card, and must be left on the table.

M. C. M.—With Ace, Kv, 10, 9, we should lead the Ace and follow with the Kv.

C.L.W.—If you break up table 1, and propose to go to table 2, all the other players at table 1 are entitled to cut in before you. The three other players at table 1 cut to ascertain who go in.

CHESS.

M. C. W.—Alexander McDonnell died on the 14th September 1835, aged 37 years. We think that a sketch of his Chess career will be found in the book of his games by W. G. Walker (1836).

V. G.—We have sent you the diagrams as requested.

J. T. C.—From an hour to an hour and a half is a fair average time of duration for a game, for players of your force.

F. WILMOT.—No doubt of it.

A's ponderous note is matched we see
By equal ponderosity in B.

T. R. Y.—Five games in all were played between the London and Edinburgh Clubs. The first was begun in April 1824, the last was finished in July 1828.

B. H.—Thanks for the positions.

J. A. W. (Edinburgh).—Thanks for the problems.

H. M.—Much obliged for your attention respecting Mr. H's problem. Extract by all means.

PIQUET.

F. B.—My adversary (dealer) is 40. He scores 6 cards and 3 Aces=49. I am 83. I score a quint; 15=98. I am elder hand and lead out Ace King=100 game; but I forget that I am game, and lead out the Knave, which my adversary wins, and he plays again. Does he thereby save the double?—*Ans.* We think not. Scoring at Piquet takes place in order, and scoring after the game is won is surplusage, and can neither count nor mean anything.

ECARTÉ.

ELLEN.—There is no penalty for exposing a card. It is to your adversary's advantage to see it.

PAPERS RECEIVED.

Hartford Weekly Times, Connecticut, 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th August; *New York Clipper* 12th, 19th and 26th August, and 3rd September; *Sissa* 26th August; *Dubuque Chess Journal; Index* 26th August; *New Berlin Schachzeitung* July and August; *Forester; Australasian* 24th June, and 1st, 8th and 15th July; *Adelaide Observer* 1st and 15th July; *The Pocket Chess Problem Recorder*, Thos. de la Rue and Co.; *European Mail.*

The Westminster Papers Supplement,
OCTOBER 1871.

CROQUET.

SUSSEX COUNTY CLUB.—CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING 1871.

We are indebted to Mr. Henry Griffith for the following:—

The contest for the Championship of the Club was commenced last Wednesday week, on the Eastern Lawn of the Royal Pavilion, Brighton.

The conditions were as follows: The competitors to play the best of three games, and, in the last round, the best of five games, the winner in the last round to receive a prize, and to play the Champion the best of five games for the Championship and the Gold Medal.

The hoops used were painted a dark blue, and the size was four and a half inches; in the last round four and a quarter inches. The Conference Laws were adhered to, but the cue stroke was not allowed, and the competitors were matched in accordance with the rules laid down in the All England Croquet Club "Regulations for the Management of Prize Meetings."

Miss F. S. Smith held the Ladies' Championship and Gold Medal in 1869 and 1870, and it will be seen from what follows that she holds it for another year. Major C. S. Lane held the Gentlemen's Championship and Gold Medal last year, and was again successful this year, beating all the competitors.

The play was as under:—

LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP.

FIRST ROUND.

Miss B. James beat Miss A. Flight.
Miss K. Philbrick beat Miss Furner (retired).
Miss Philbrick beat Mrs. Davidson.
Miss Turner beat Mrs. Penfold (retired).
Miss F. S. Smith beat Miss A. E. Brander.
Mrs. Blaker a bye.

SECOND ROUND.

Miss B. James beat Miss K. Philbrick.
Miss K. Philbrick beat Miss Turner.
Miss F. S. Smith beat Mrs. Blaker.

THIRD ROUND.

Miss B. James beat Miss Philbrick.
Miss F. S. Smith a bye.

LAST ROUND

Miss B. James beat Miss F. S. Smith.

ROUND FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Miss F. S. Smith v. Miss B. James (not played).

First Round.—James *v.* Flight.—Both of these ladies played an excellent game, and though Miss Flight did her best, Miss James won the odd game after a close contest.

Philbrick *v.* Furner.—Miss Furner failed to put in an appearance, and consequently Miss Philbrick walked over.

Philbrick *v.* Davidson.—Miss Philbrick played a very good game, beating Mrs. Davidson two games in succession. Mrs. Davidson, however, is unaccustomed to the ground and did not play in her usual style.

Turner *v.* Penfold.—Miss Turner walked over.

Smith *v.* Brander.—This match was looked forward to with considerable interest on account of the well-known skill of the two ladies; however, Miss Smith won two successive games easily.

Second Round.—James *v.* Philbrick.—Miss James played a splendid game, and won two games right off; Miss Philbrick played remarkably well. In the second game she killed one of Miss James's balls, and was ready to go out when Miss James made a splendid shot at the peg at 30 yards and won the game.

Philbrick *v.* Turner.—This was a very close contest, but Miss Philbrick succeeded in winning the odd game, thus atoning for her defeat at the Spring Meeting.

Smith *v.* Blaker.—Miss Smith played well and won two games rather easily.

Third Round.—James *v.* Philbrick.—Miss James never gave her adversary a chance, and won the two games very quickly.

Last Round.—James *v.* Smith.—This match caused great interest, as it was well known Miss James had improved much during the year, and that Miss Smith would have some difficulty in holding the Championship for another year; and so it proved, for Miss James played a beautiful game throughout, and won three games right off. She plays a very safe, steady game, and ran the hoops in a most perfect manner.

Miss James thus took the prize, a handsome gold locket, with monogram of the Club, presented by Mr. E. Bright. Unfortunately, Miss James had to leave Brighton for the Continent the same evening, and consequently the round for the Championship was not played, Miss Smith therefore holds the Championship and the Gold Medal for the third year in succession. We believe that it is the intention of the Club to present her with the Gold Medal.

GENTLEMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP.

FIRST ROUND.

Rev. D. I. Heath beat H. Soames, Esq.
W. A. Soames, Esq., beat H. Newton, Esq.
G. C. Joad, Esq., beat C. Newton, Esq.
Major C. S. Lane beat A. W. Soames, Esq.

SECOND ROUND.

W. A. Soames, Esq., beat Rev. D. I. Heath.
Major Lane beat G. C. Joad, Esq.

LAST ROUND.

Major C. S. Lane beat W. A. Soames, Esq.

First Round—Heath *v.* Soames.—Neither of the competitors in this match were in first rate form, and the ground was rather difficult; in the end Mr. Heath pulled off the odd game, his long shots being most successful.

Soames *v.* Newton.—Mr. Soames played a bold dashing game, and won the two games rather easily.

Joad *v.* Newton.—Mr. Joad was in first rate form, and won as he liked.

Lane *v.* Soames.—Major Lane seemed quite to have

recovered his old form and completely ran away from Mr. Soames, never giving him a chance.

SECOND ROUND.—Soames *v.* Heath.—Mr. Soames here again played a most dashing game, and won the first game rather easily. The second, however, was a close affair. Mr. Soames missed the first hoop with both balls, but soon after, getting the break, took his yellow ball right round to the last hoop, and Mr. Heath, getting in again, helped yellow through the last hoop, and then considerately pegged him out, then playing carefully he got both his balls to the last hoop, when Mr. Soames got in with a fine shot, and taking pink right round finished the game.

Lane *v.* Joad.—The first game Mr. Joad won rather easily, playing very well, but in the second game Major Lane recovered himself, never missing a single shot throughout, several being at 40 yards. In the third game Mr. Joad was certainly unlucky, but Major Lane was also playing splendidly, and won easily.

LAST ROUND.—Lane *v.* Soames.—Mr. Soames is a young player of great promise, and was evidently rather nervous in this match. His long shots were splendid, but the small hoops puzzled him, and at first he could not run them at all, while Major Lane was quite at his ease, and played throughout a most perfect game, winning three games out of four. Mr. Soames won the third game, and closely pressed his adversary in the second and fourth.

Major Lane therefore took the Prize, a Silver Cup of an exceeding chaste design; he also holds the Championship for another year, and the Gold Medal. We understand that he leaves for India shortly, and no doubt the Club will present him with the Gold Medal which he has thus won two years in succession, and for which he will not have the chance of competing again.

Altogether a most successful Meeting was held, the weather was fine, and the ground in good order. Mr. Henry Griffith was referee.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND CROQUET TOURNAMENT.

THE above meeting, open to all comers, commenced on Monday last, on the Sussex County Croquet Club Ground, Royal Pavilion, Brighton, and will no doubt last some week or ten days.

The meeting is under the management of the Sussex County Croquet Club, and the arrangements are in the hands of the following Stewards:—Captain E. T. Dundas, R. Gill, Esq., Major C. S. Lane, C. Newton, Esq., Henry Soames, Esq., W. A. Soames, Esq., A. W. Soames, Esq., while Mr. Henry Griffith fills the important post of handicapper and referee. A most attractive programme was issued, and consequently there was a large entry, no less than 51 of the well-known local players having entered, while not a few of the competitors came a long distance to play, so great are the attractions which the game possesses. The events in the programme were Partner Prizes, *i.e.* a Lady and Gentleman against a Lady and Gentleman (the Gentlemen having chosen their partners beforehand), and an open Handicap for Ladies and Gentlemen.

As the total expense of the meeting—which is by no means small—falls on the Sussex County Club, Members of that Club paid a smaller entrance fee than strangers. The entrance fees however were purposely kept low, and the large entry fully compensated for the small fees. Another alteration has been also made, and that is that the "public" have been admitted free, and it is hoped that it has been of more benefit to them than it has been to the Club. We give the scores as they now stand up to Thursday evening, the 28th ult.

PARTNER PRIZES.

FIRST ROUND.

Colonel Davidson and Miss Turner beat W. A. Soames, Esq. and Miss I. Millard.

A. W. Soames, Esq. and Miss A. Flight beat H. Newton, Esq. and Mrs. Penfold.

Captain E. T. Dundas and Mrs. Blaker beat Rev. D. I. Heath and Miss K. Philbrick.

G. C. Joad, Esq. and Miss F. S. Smith beat E. Henty, Esq. and Miss Stephenson.

Major C. S. Lane and Miss A. E. Brander beat C. Newton, Esq. and Miss Philbrick.

R. Gill, Esq. and Miss Cooper beat C. F. Dalton, Esq. and Mrs. Davidson.

G. P. Willoughby, Esq. and Miss Furner beat H. Soames, Esq. and Miss L. Soames. (Retired).

SECOND ROUND.

Miss A. Flight beat Colonel Davidson and Miss Turner.

G. C. Joad, Esq. and Miss F. Smith beat Captain E. T. Dundas and Mrs. Blaker.

Major C. S. Lane and Miss A. E. Brander beat R. Gill, Esq. and Miss Cooper.

G. P. Willoughby, Esq. and Miss Furner a bye.

THIRD ROUND.

G. C. Joad, Esq. and Miss F. S. Smith beat Miss A. Flight.

Major C. S. Lane and Miss A. E. Brander beat G. P. Willoughby, Esq. and Miss Furner.

LAST ROUND.

G. C. Goad, Esq., and Miss F. S. Smith beat Major C. S. Lane and Miss Brander.

THE OPEN HANDICAP.

FIRST ROUND.

Miss K. Philbrick beat Colonel Davidson.
Major C. S. Lane beat Miss Philbrick (6 bisques).
Mrs. Blaker (4 bisques) beat W. A. Soames, Esq. (retired).
H. Newton, Esq. (3 bisques) beat H. Soames, Esq. (retired).
Captain E. T. Dundas *v.* Miss A. Flight (1 bisque).
R. Gill, Esq. beat Miss Turner (1 bisque).
C. F. Dalton, Esq. (1 bisque) beat A. W. Soames, Esq. (retired).
Mrs. Davidson (3 bisques) beat G. P. Willoughby, Esq.
G. C. Joad, Esq. beat Miss Furner (7 bisques).
Miss A. E. Brander beat C. Cork, Esq. (1 bisque).
E. Henty, Esq. (1 bisque) beat Rev. D. I. Heath.
C. Newton, Esq. a bye.

SECOND ROUND.

Major Lane beat Miss K. Philbrick (6 bisques).
H. Newton, Esq. beat Mrs. Blaker (1 bisque).
Mrs. Davidson (4 bisques) beat C. F. Dalton, Esq.
Miss A. E. Brander (4 bisques) beat G. C. Joad, Esq.
E. Henty, Esq. beat C. Newton, Esq. (1 bisque).

A general gloom has, however, been thrown over the play by the unexpected death of Mr. Soames, of Tramore Lodge, Brighton. Three of his sons and a daughter were playing on Monday, and distinguished themselves greatly. The Committee allowed their partners in the Partner Prizes to take the two balls and do their best to win.

The Westminster Papers.

1st NOVEMBER 1871.

THE CHESS WORLD.

"The whisperings of our petty burgh."

MR. Babbage, the famous mathematician, whose death has been the occasion of numerous notices in the daily and weekly press, was a Chess player of considerable skill. His machine for playing the nursery game of "Fox and Goose," or "Tit-tat-to," attracted much attention; but it is not generally known that he at one time contemplated the construction of an Automatic Chess Player, and, indeed, only relinquished his purpose when, extending his knowledge of the game, he came to the conclusion that a genuine Chess Automaton was an impossibility.

The members of the City of London Chess Club now meet on three evenings a week instead of two, as heretofore; and the Handicap Tournament, open to members only on payment of a fee of Five Shillings, will be commenced forthwith.

At the Birkbeck Literary and Scientific Institution a class has been established for the study of Chess, under the supervision of Mr. H. J. Webber. As a large proportion of the members of this Institution are ladies, the Chess class ought to be attractive, and we should think that Mr. Webber will have an easy task in teaching the young idea how to mate!

The extraordinary pressure upon our space this month compels us to let our usual notice of the foreign Chess items stand over until our next, but there is one piece of news which should not be withheld. We learn from an American paper that at a dinner given by Mr. F. E. Brenziger (Chess editor of the *Brooklyn Index*) a pie was set before the guests, which, we venture to think, will in future times surpass in interest every culinary effort on record, from Esau's mess of pottage to Andrew Marvel's cold shoulder of mutton. The crust of the pie bore the impression of a Chess problem, composed specially for the occasion, and we are informed that it was exceedingly difficult, and was not solved by the company? "When the belly is full," says Sancho, "the bones will be resting," but what *can* be the condition of that man's bones—to say nothing of his mind—who has "eaten his fill" of an unsolved Chess problem. Suppose it happens to be incapable of solution, as these things very often are! He must next, we suppose, sit down to a problem solver—like the man who swallowed a blue-bottle, and found his only remedy was to send a spider after it. Is Mr. Brenziger, whose skill in construction and solution is well known, quite prepared for such a contingency.

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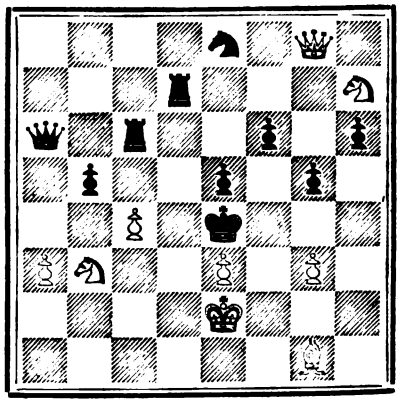

WHITE.

White to move and mate in four moves.

The death of Mr. C. R. Alexander, one of the most prominent members of the Westminster Chess Club, and a valued contributor to the earlier volumes of this journal, is referred to in another part of this number. It would, however, be impossible to consider a review of the Chess World for the month as complete which did not record that event, and the sincere sorrow with which it is regarded by all Chess players who enjoyed the privilege of his friendship. In Memoriam, we append one of Mr. Alexander's finest problems.

There is a statement in the *Chess Quarterly Chronicle* for October that the proceedings of a few members at the Malvern meeting, in August, were hasty and irregular, and that the resolutions come to before the business meeting on the Friday were, for the most part, null and void. The Rev. C. E. Ranken desires publicly to contradict this statement. He says all that was done was done deliberately, in perfect form and order, according to the regulations of the published programme; and the Friday meeting merely confirmed in every particular the steps taken by a legally appointed committee, consisting of the Rev. W. Wayte, Mr. Ranken, and others.

We are glad to learn that a Chess Club has been started at Swansea. The meetings will be held at the Tenby Hotel. Mr. Montague Wilmot has been elected Chairman, and Dr. Pedley Vice-Chairman. The club already numbers forty members, and we cordially wish it success.

A new Chess Club also is being formed at Brighton. As the enthusiasm for the game appears to die out in one place it breaks out with increased vehemence at another.

The long promised handbook by Dufresne and Zuckertort is ready, and will be issued to the public before our next number. We are informed there are 772 diagrams and 318 prize games, by the most eminent players of all times, and the price at which the work is issued seems reasonable.

A NEW CHESS THEORIST.

THE utility of anecdote as an educational medium has been entirely overlooked by our Chess writers, who in the face of failures of the most disheartening kind, persist in presenting us with elaborate and painfully scientific treatises, which few people buy, and still fewer have sufficient leisure to read.

They have not observed that in this age, practical as it is called, ninety-nine men out of every hundred cherish an intense desire to reap without undergoing the labour of sowing, and so far as learning is concerned, prefer that sort of instruction which, like the patent medicines, "will not interfere with business."

It is a fact within the experience of everybody that a short paragraph which describes the object and effect of a new invention in science, or the salient points in the character and career of an individual, will receive attention, where an exhaustive treatment of the subject would be altogether unheeded, and if it assumes the form of anecdote the paragraph is simply irresistible.

This wide-spread popularity of the anecdotic paragraph has long been recognized by the editors of newspaper Chess columns, who frequently favour the public with specimens intended to be illustrative of various phases in the history of the game, but these are all of them open to the objection that they record merely isolated events, having no particular application to the practice of Chess, and that they serve only to puzzle and confound the general reader, who, in default of a better explanation, refers their attractiveness to a certain irrelevancy, which in some circles would be termed "chaff."

But it appears to us, or to write more honestly, to me, that a judicious use of the anecdotic paragraph would enable our Chess writers to illustrate the principles which govern the whole art of Chess play; and on a system which would be equally effective for the teacher, and interesting to the pupil—which would get rid too of the main objection to the game of Chess in the minds of those persons who know nothing about it, that it is "over-wise," by shewing that it is sometimes otherwise.

A few examples will serve my purpose better than a hundred arguments, and I proceed to set them forth, only stopping to observe that the suggestion here thrown out is entirely at the service of the next aspirant for bays in the theoric literature of Chess.

I.

"The game of Chess . . . . . is played by two persons, each having at command a little army of sixteen men."—*Staunton's Handbook.*

"2 persons × 16 men = 32 men."—*Cocker.*

Miss Rooster, the accomplished authoress of *Curious Conjectures concerning Confucius*, and sister of Sir Cocywax Rooster, British Envoy at the Court of Unterirdisch, was passionately devoted to our INTELLECTUAL PASTIME.

On one occasion her dearest friend, Miss Pullet, calling, found her so absorbed in studying a problem by the great Schweilagerbier, that her visitor could not obtain even a sign of recognition. After various unsuccessful efforts to attract the attention of the fair enthusiast, Miss Pullet departed, and meeting an acquaintance immediately afterwards, jocosely remarked that she had left Miss Rooster engaged with thirty-two men. The story spread over the town, and finally assumed the form that Miss Rooster was engaged *to* thirty-two men, whereby she acquired the reputation of being a dangerous coquette. To this thoughtless jest Miss Rooster always ascribed the circumstance that during the remainder of her life she walked in "maiden meditation fancy free."

II.

"If the King cannot be moved away from the check, nor any man whatsoever be at hand to go between him and the adversary, he is held to be in mate, and the game is ended."—*Ancient MS. Translation of Captain Crawley.*

Mr. O'B—g—e, the well-known enthusiastic, but not wholly successful Chess player, has just returned to London after some years absence in Boulogne. Dining with a friend at Simpson's the other day, the latter recurred to the changes which had taken place there, and expressed regret that the Grand Chess Divan had been transformed into a dining-room. "Faix," said Mr. O'B—g—e, as he took up a toothpick, "It's the first time in my life I ever felt inclined to say grace after *mate* in this room.

III.

"The Rooks occupy the corner squares . . . . . and may be played along either of the files of squares they command."—*Walker.*

Mr. Serjeant Drytong, whose legal acumen was acknowledged by all parties, was also distinguished for a pretty wit, and great skill in our ROYAL GAME.

On one occasion he appeared for the defendant in an action brought by four persons, to recover a sum of money lost by his client in a betting transaction. In the course of his speech the Judge (Wontone C. J.) interrupting him, asked, "Do I understand you to say that the plaintiffs were standing two and two at each end of the street in order to intercept the defendant when he came out?" "Not exactly two and two, my Lord," said the Counsel, "but as on a Chess-board there was a Rook at every corner, only *these*, as I shall shew, did not act upon the square."

THE PROBLEM TOURNAMENT.

OUR readers will learn, from the correspondence appended, that the Problem Tourney for the Prizes given by the Westminster Chess Club has been decided, and, in accordance with the request of the Committee of that Club, we have now to state that the award of the judges takes effect and the prizes will be paid to the winners on the 1st day of December next, unless before that date any one of the problems of the sets referred to shall be shown to be unsound.

The following is a list of the competitors:—

No.		
1.	Au Revoir . . .	V. N. Portilla, Mexico
2.	In these Problems, &c.	Alfred Hill, London
3.	Nec timeo, nec sperno .	R. Rabson, Brighton
4.	Vast Images, &c. .	E. Freeborough, Hull
5.	Playmates . . .	H. T. Young, London
6.	Trois Etoiles . .	H. E. Kidson, Liverpool
7.	Sequitur Victoria fortis	J. H. Finlinson, Huddersfield
8.	Ex luce lucellum . .	J. W. Abbott, London
9.	Nil desperandum . .	J. G. Finch, Ramsgate
10.	Nemo	J. O'Brien, Armagh
11.	Some of Life's Chips .	W. Bolt, Dawlish
12.	Clavam Extorquere, &c.	G. Parr, London
13.	Helenus . . .	T. Henderson, Melbourne

It will be seen that only thirteen composers have taken part in the Tourney; but in many respects, and especially having regard to the brief notice given, the competing problems are distinguished by more than ordinary merit. It must however be a subject of great regret to every one interested in these competitions, that so large a proportion as six out of the thirteen sets should have their chances of receiving a prize nullified at once from containing inaccurate problems.

Apart altogether from the question of what is or is not a perfect problem, when a composer states as his conditions that White is to play and mate in four moves, giving at the same time four specific moves as his solution, and it is subsequently discovered that four different moves (or it may be three or two, the first move being the same) will answer his conditions just as well, it is very clear that he has only imperfectly understood his own problem, and to give a prize to such a competitor would be to encourage careless or inefficient workmanship, and possibly crude and illogical thought.

Accuracy is therefore the first and most essential consideration in a Chess Problem; it is the point on which, as a rule, judges of problems bestow their attention in the first instance, and if it is wanting, the problem, no matter what its merits may be, counts for nothing in the competition for the prizes. We are desirous of pointing out the importance of accuracy to our younger composers for their advantage in the Tourney which we are about to announce.

THE EDITOR OF THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS offers two prizes (£5 and £2 10s) for the best sets of three original problems in a competition open to the composers of all nations. The limitation of the Tourney just concluded to British composers was adopted on grounds which we believe to be perfectly justifiable to an English Chess Club, but in the present case the Editor of this Journal is at liberty to recognise the universality of the game, and therefore extends his invitation to the brotherhood of Chess, without distinction of nationality. It may be objected in some quarters that the prizes offered are insignificant in amount, and to those who regard these competitions from the money view alone we may concede the point—the more readily perhaps that no argument of ours would induce them to augment the prizes by subscriptions—nevertheless we are old fashioned enough to entertain the conviction that problem composers as a body are less influenced by pecuniary considerations than any other class of the Chess fraternity. There are no professional problem composers that we have ever heard of, and, if there are any, it is no part of our programme to encourage the genus.

The plan of publishing the problems before making the award, adopted in the last Tournament, will be adhered to in the present one, and, as before, the comments and analyses of our subscribers and competitors will receive every attention from the judges, who may be addressed through the Editor of this Journal.

The following are the conditions of the Tourney:—

1. The competition will be open to problem composers of all nations.

2. The problems to be original, to be ordinary mates, and the solutions to be in not less than three, nor more than four moves.

3. Each competitor to send three problems. The positions to be clearly described upon diagrams, to be accompanied by full solutions, and to bear a distinguishing device, or motto, and not the author's name.

4. Each competitor to send with the problems a sealed envelope containing his name and address, and endorsed with the motto corresponding with that affixed to the problems. These envelopes will not be opened until after the adjudication of the prizes.

5. The problems to be sent to the Editor of the *Westminster Papers*, 1 Ironmonger Lane, London, E.C., as follows:—

From composers resident in the United Kingdom, on or before the 20th January 1872.

From composers resident in the rest of Europe and North America, 20th February 1872.

From composers resident elsewhere, 20th May 1872.

6. Problems, the joint composition of two or more composers, will be disqualified.

7. The Problems, after undergoing a preliminary examination, will be published in this Journal at the rate of three sets per month; and on the expiration of one month after the publication of the last set, the prizes will be awarded.

PRIZES.			
First Prize	£5 0	Judges and Examiners	Mr. F. Burden. Mr. P. T. Duffy.
Second Prize	2 10		

To the Secretary of the Westminster Chess Club.

DEAR SIR,—We have examined the thirteen sets of problems received in the competition for the prizes given by the Westminster Chess Club, and provided no inaccuracy is detected in either set before the 30th November, we are of opinion that the first prize of £5 should be awarded to the set bearing the motto—

"Vast images in glimmering dawn,
Half seen, are broken and withdrawn;"

and the second prize of £2 10s to the set bearing the motto—

"Ex luce lucellum."

We are, dear Sir, yours faithfully, R. B. WORMALD,
23rd October 1871. P. T. DUFFY.

The award being made, I certify that the envelopes containing the names of the competitors were opened by me in the presence of Mr. Duffy, and I further certify that neither the judges nor any other person ever saw the original problems, or the envelopes in which they were sent, after they reached my hands until the award was made, and that no one knew through me by whom such problems were sent in.

1 *Ironmonger Lane, E.C., 24th October* 1871. CHARLES MOSSOP.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—The appearance in your columns of the Tourney Problems naturally calls attention to the subject, and seems to present a favourable opportunity for a suggestion I have long thought of offering.

Why should not the solutions of Chess Problems appear in the same number as the Problems themselves? Simply, I imagine, because for reasons which it is needless to discuss (since they cannot apply to your periodical), it has hitherto been the practice to print solutions in a subsequent number, and you have naturally enough followed the practice you found in existence. I am confident that if the Problems and their Solutions appeared in the same number, dozens of people would be interested who now never think of looking at them.

E J. L.

P.S.—For my own part, I should like the Solutions at the back of the page which contains the Problems, but this is a mere matter of detail.

Westminster Chess Club, 9th September 1871.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—In the first scene of the first act of the first part of Christopher Marlowe's play of *Tamburlaine the Great* the following line occurs—

"How now, my lord; what, *mated* and amazed."

I was somewhat surprised, I must confess, on coming across the word, as its meaning could only be explained in one way, viz., by giving to it the sense it has on the Chess board. I referred to the notes, and there found —"*Mated* is humbled from the French verb '*mater*.' It is still preserved in check*mate*." This note, sir, is more astonishing still. Can it be we have been all along mistaken about the derivation of "mate," or does the old French word come from the same Persian original. Could any correspondent throw any light on the matter.

23rd May 1871. I am, sir, yours, &c. F.

Obituary.

DR. ALEXANDER.

"DE Mortuis nil nisi bonum" is the cold but commendable precept of charity. How much better when of our dead we cannot with truth but speak good!

From our midst we have lost a sincere, true-hearted, simple gentleman—Mr. Charles Revans Alexander, who died on the 9th of September, after a short illness, at his residence, No. 6 Cork-street, Burlington Gardens.

It is with painful regret we call to mind his generosity, hospitality, and friendly sincerity, and we know that in many circles where his cheery presence was ever welcome, a sensible void will be occasioned by his death.

Educated at Eton, and a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, he succeeded in his profession his father, whose skilful treatment of diseases of the eye made him pre-eminent.

Mr. Alexander was one of the earliest supporters of the Westminster Chess Club, and was a member of the Committee. He was an enthusiastic votary of Chess, and the constructor of many pretty Problems. A happy example of his style we are able to print in the present Number.

TOURNEY PROBLEMS.

PROBLEM No. XLIX.—"PLAYMATES."

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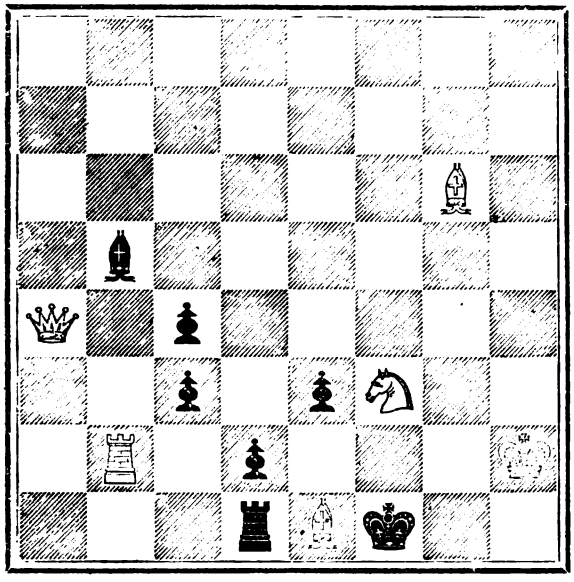

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. L.—"PLAYMATES."

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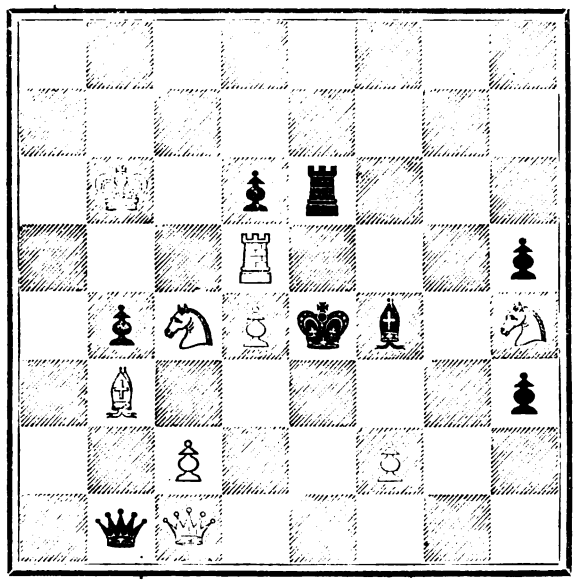

WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

PROBLEM No. LI.—"AU REVOIR."

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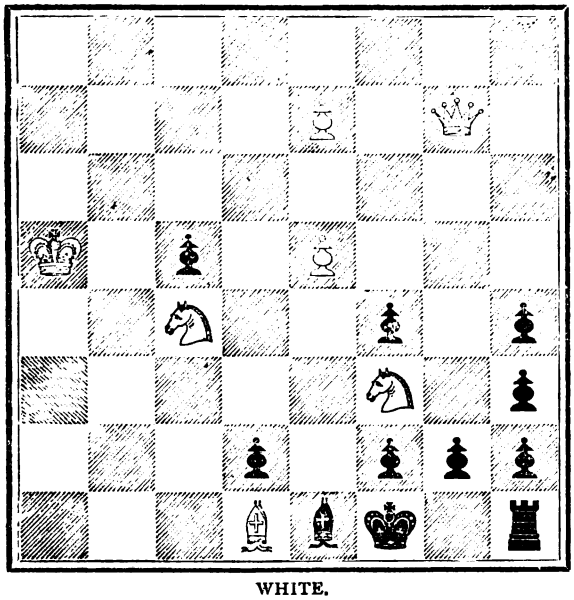

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. LII.—By "HELENUS."

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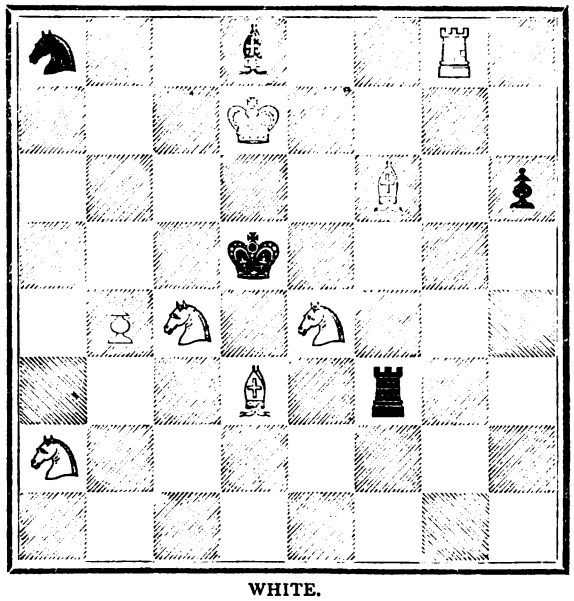

WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

PROBLEMS.

No. LIII.—By V. GORGIAS.
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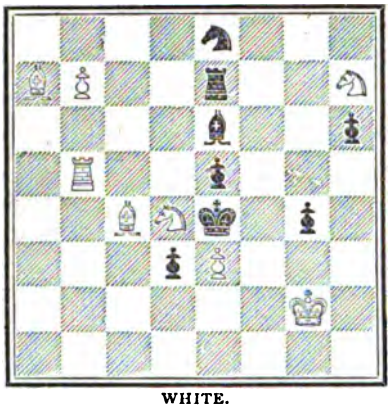

WHITE.
White to play and mate in two moves.

No. LIV.—By V. GORGIAS.
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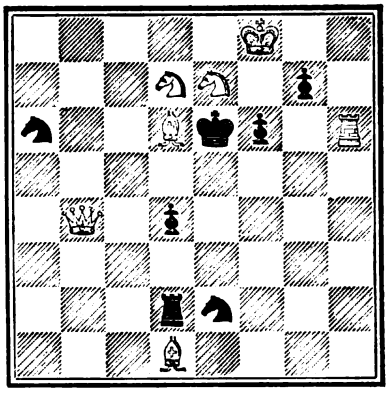

WHITE.
White to play and mate in two moves.

No. LV.—By J. W. ABBOTT.
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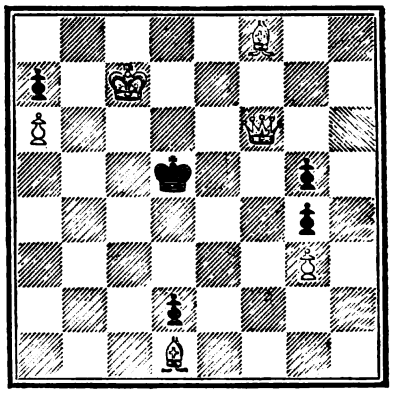

WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. LVI.—By A. LULMAN, Melbourne.
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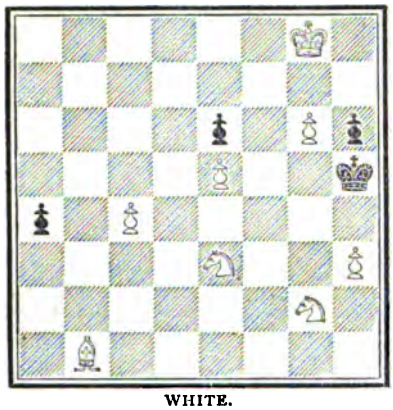

WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. LVII.—By A. LULMAN, Melbourne.
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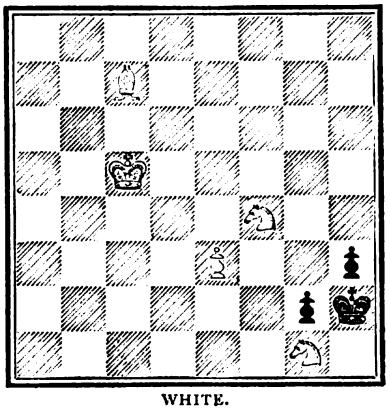

WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

No. LVIII.—By J. A. W. HUNTER.
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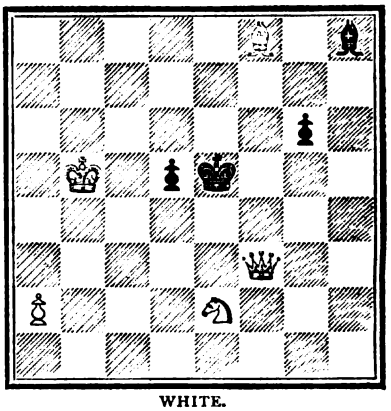

WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

No. LIX.—By W. SEARLE.
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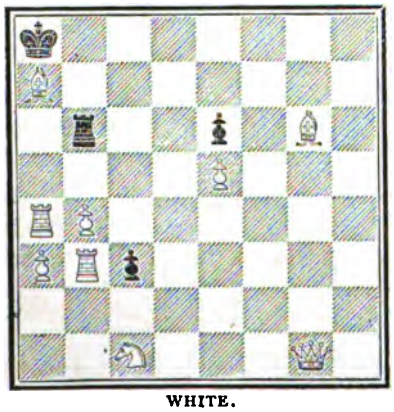

WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

No. LX.—By RICHARD ORMOND.
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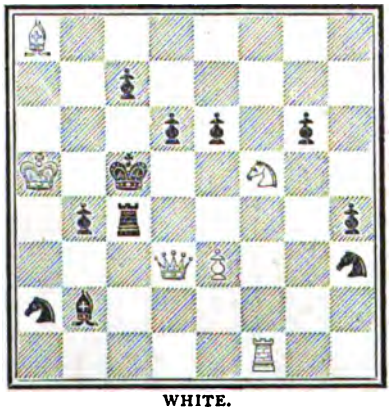

WHITE.
White to play and mate in five moves.

No. LXI.—By B. HORWITZ.
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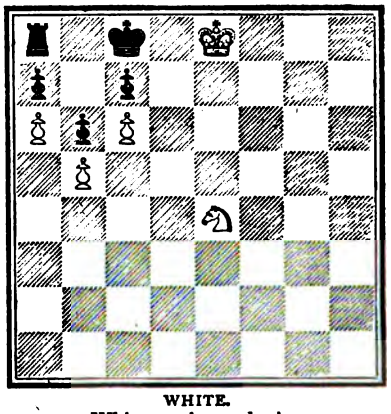


WHITE.
White to play and win.

WHIST.

A and B play against X and Z. A leads. The card with the double rim wins, and the card below the rimmed card is the next one led.

HAND No. 109.

Score—Love All. Z turns up H 10.

	A. Martin.	X. Belaieff.	B. Walker.	Z. Mossop.
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				

HAND No. 110.

Score—Love. Z. turns up H 2.

	A. Minchin.	X. Mossop.	B. Barnes.	Z. Bristow.
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				

HAND No. 111.

Score—A and B 4 to love. Z turns up D 2.

	A. Robertson.	X. Burden.	B. Child.	Z. Mossop.
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				

HAND No. 109.

NOTES.—An overwhelming hand, only worthy of insertion as a record of one of the late match games. 1 and 2. B Blue Peters. 4. Emgeen, who has kindly looked through these hands, thinks Z should have forced X, because of the Blue Peter.

HAND No. 110.

NOTES.—1. The cover of the 9 with the 10 appears to us unsound. B knows the 9 is from weakness. 2. Z does not return the trump because he knows the strength is to his right. 4. Z's finesse is quite sound, and shows he is playing carefully as usual. 9. Z's proper lead was Spade 6. 11. X now knows that the best Spade is against him to his right. He knows also that his partner has one Diamond, strength unknown, one Club and one trump.

HAND No. 111.

NOTES.—This hand exhibits a very curious combination of cards. At trick 2 "the Gallery" asserted that Z's play was very risky, but it turned out luckily. Hence the insertion of this hand. Z is safe in two suits. He knows from the first round that the cards in the third suit are divided between A and X, so that suit is safe. The adversaries are at four. If X has any strength in trumps it is better that Z should lead them than that X should lead up to the two and three. To our thinking there is nothing rash about the lead; we should rather have thought it a forced than a rash lead. It is forced except on the assumption that B has Blue Petered, and the player in question, B, never does so.

OUTSIDERS.

THE duties of outsiders consist in being silent, except when requested to answer questions left for their decision. It is scarcely necessary to say that duties apparently so simple are seldom properly performed. The outsiders resemble Naaman; if they were asked to do some great thing, no doubt they would do it, but as they are only asked metaphorically to wash and be clean, they are unwilling to comply. A visitor to the Whist rooms of London, possessed of some powers of observation, would find much food for reflection. The wits as well as the dullards are there assembled. Those that understand Whist, and those that do not, give utterance to their thoughts, without troubling themselves to inquire whether their remarks are agreeable to the players. "Bravo, Smith, *they say* you can't play Whist! You gave them three tricks in that last hand, and yet won the rubber!" The muff here impaled sits out, and he sees a trump lead come to grief. "Ah," he says, "I thought that rash! I should not have lost that game: nothing could justify such a lead," and so on. These are but samples of what we hear, and any Whist player can fill up a page of such remarks from his own memory, without our troubling ourselves or the printer. We want to talk to-day of another class of outsiders. We mean that class who persist in asking questions of the players, or drawing off their attention by some remark whilst the play proceeds. We have seen a discussion going on between two outsiders as to the play of the last hand, after the new hand had commenced. It is more than human nature to expect that such a discussion can go on without some of the players being drawn into the vortex. Even the bettors on the rubber are sometimes guilty of this fault. It sometimes loses them a chance; but if by accident the player against whom they are betting should fail to take advantage of the opening offered to him, and should play incorrectly in consequence of the talk, what a frightful suspicion would cross his mind. The outsider often asks inadvertently the simplest question as to the play, or he asks a player to pass the matches, or to give a light, or "Is this your grog or mine?" Nothing of this sort should be done. A Whist player requires his whole attention concentrated on the matter before him, and if his mind become abstracted, or he thinks of anything else, he does not do his duty to himself or his partner. Of course such a diversion has greater effect on one man than another, and it is unfair on this ground alone. If all were distracted alike, little harm might be done; but one man can stand any amount of chaff and not lose the thread of the game, whilst another will know nothing of the position of the cards from the same slight cause. In a private house we can hardly expect that great respect for Whist that imposes silence on the audience; but we fancy even in this case there is no necessity for the servants to come and ask whether you will have tea or coffee, milk or sugar, muffins or crumpets. Indeed, the number of questions they can ask upon so simple a matter as a cup of tea—about which for the moment we care nothing, except to wish it at Jericho—is extraordinary. The master of the house should take this matter in hand, and impress upon his servants the duty of waiting until the rubber, or at any rate the hand, is over. It is the attention to such little matters as these, the etiquette of the lookers on, including the etiquette of the household, that makes a rubber pleasant or disagreeable. It seems late in the day to speak of such trifles, but without attention to trifles the wheel soon begins to creak, and the brain, attacked through the ear, becomes excited and testy, and the company quarrelsome. We might, we think, say a word to the club waiters. A hand seldom takes three minutes to play, and to our mind the most gorgeous flunkey we have ever looked up to might condescend to waste those precious minutes before bringing in a card for Mr. So-and-So, or introducing Mr. So-and-So to one of the players. We look upon these great men with too much awe to do more than suggest this in all humility, trusting to their superior understandings not to take offence at our presumption.

There is a class of players—men of great minds—who find their brains so elastic that they can attend to two things at once, and hence besides playing at Table 1 they bet on Table 2; and not content with a simple bet they give and take the odds. The two tables do not, as of course, finish at the same time, and we have the players at Table 1 calling out, "Smith, you have won" or "lost." Thereupon Smith begins to think what it is he has won or lost, and his attention is diverted; or, perhaps, that not

being sufficient, one of the players comes and pays, and regardless of all the courtesies of life pays without hesitation whilst the hand proceeds. It may seem a very small matter, but it exhibits a strange want of consideration for the other members of the table. This, of itself, should be sufficient to prevent a repetition of the practice, but as hitherto this consideration has failed to induce players to think of others besides themselves, may we suggest, in all seriousness, that the best player that ever lived could not do justice to himself or his partner under such circumstances? We are quite aware that the gambling part of the Whist players pay very little attention to anything but the leading features of the hand, but there are others who are often backed for money because they pay more attention than this. Some of these try to recollect all the cards played, and we venture to assert the man does not exist who can do so if his attention is diverted from the matter in hand. To our mind, therefore, the outsider who has backed one side becauses he conceives that side the best is robbed of the chance he has taken by the interruptions to which we have adverted. We have no doubt that the excitable men who thus behave do so in all innocence, but thoughtlessness may become a crime, and requires attention in the first instance before it becomes a permanent disease. We trust that this offence will not be repeated.

Closely allied to this subject is another to which we desire to call attention. All Whist players are aware that the table is full when six members have entered. It is found in practice better to have two players sitting out rather than that four should continually play. To play a serious game for a series of rubbers is too great a strain for ordinary mortals. The strain is removed by abstaining from play for the quarter of an hour or twenty minutes that is occupied in playing a rubber. This apparently good rule, one that hitherto has received the approval of all good players, is now destroyed by two of the players arranging to cut out together, and during the play of the rubber, when they ought to be at rest, playing at Piquet. Now this is objectionable in a variety of ways. In the first place, if the players do not take the rest that the rules of the game provide, they cannot play as well as they otherwise would, and this is an injustice to their partners. 2ndly. They make an abominable noise with their "tierces," and "quints," and "14 aces," and "not goods," and their score generally. 3rdly. When they come back after dealing out their cards in twos at one game, they constantly do so at the Whist table and lose their deal. 4thly. They keep other men out of the table that desire to come in, and to our thinking, if this be within the letter of the law, it could only be from an oversight that such is the case. 5thly. By choosing the player with whom to sit out, they obtain an advantage not recognized by the law. Whist should be made as agreeable as possible to the greatest number, and it cannot be said that it is agreeable for the players to have to call the others from the Piquet table, and to be kept waiting while the two players are playing out the hand. The men who are so impatient and excitable that they cannot wait until a rubber is finished, thus try the patience of their brother Whist players. Piquet, to our thinking, requires much more attention than such players can give to it; but these are matters with which we have nothing to do. It is an injustice to the other members that desire to play Whist. It is disagreeable to the players in the table. It is certain to break up the table. It is more expensive to the Club, and will necessitate a higher price being paid for cards, and so on. If the matter be seriously thought about, the inconveniences and advantages duly balanced, we cannot but think this practice will be discontinued. Let the Piquet players keep to their Piquet, and the Whist players to their Whist, but do not let us have the two combined. One more remark and we have done; is there any reason why Piquet should be played in the Whist room? When there is only one room, the Whist players must put up with the annoyance; but when there are two or three rooms, why cannot the Piquet players go to another room; or, best of all, why cannot they reform, and play quietly.

KNAVE OR FOOL.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—You have been pleased to relate, under the heading of a "True Story," in your September number, a circumstance that happened to me many years ago, which I had hoped had long since been buried in oblivion. The story so vividly told I had almost forgotten, but I think you should have added that the culprits were subsequently acquitted on some technical objection to the form of the indictment, and the fine was never paid. Well, Sir, having lost my money, and having no other expectations, I thought the wisest thing I could do was to resume my profession, and return to Demerara. Having acquired a competency, by which, by the way, I do not mean £10,000 per annum, paid quarterly and in advance, I returned to this country, and retaining my love for Whist, I determined this time not to play with strangers. I therefore sought out a respectable Whist Club, was duly elected, and played daily. I desire with your permission to relate as concisely as I can a few circumstances that happened to me in my new sphere, and I vouch in all sincerity for the honesty of the player of whom I am about to speak. My friend is of average intellect. If I except his forehead, which is high, and recedes too much at the crown, there is nothing weak about him. He has eyes that I should envy if I were about to travel for pleasure on the top of a coach. They appear to see every thing, but cannot be concentrated on one spot. They roam all round the room, but occasionally only rest on the table—not the sort of eyes, in short, required for Whist. I premise that he is habitually a bad player, and that from some mental or physical defect, he revokes more often than the generality of players. From this cause more

money than ordinary is betted against Mr. Blackwood. But I am somewhat old fashioned now, and I confess I do not like to change my stakes because I get a bad partner. So that if I have had £50 on against Mr. Blackwood, I cannot bring myself to reduce the stake if that gentleman is my partner, and as occasionally odds are betted against Mr. B., and the betting is rather more free when I am his partner, owing to my Colonial play (which touches my vanity), it generally happens that the rubbers I lose are for larger sums than I care here to state. (1) The first time I played under these circumstances there were two cards left in, and we wanted two tricks to win the game. My partner had the lead, and he had the best trump (Heart) and the best Diamond. There was only one other trump in, which was in the hand of an adversary, whose hand consisted of the losing trump and the 13th Spade. My partner led the best Diamond, Z trumped it, and saved the game. I need hardly say this was annoying, and that the explanation of the matter was that my partner had forgotten there was another trump in. (2) The next hand we wanted two tricks to win the game, when the following position occurred. My partner had Ace, Queen, and 2 of trumps. An adversary to his left had King, Knave, 10. Mr. Blackwood had the lead. He led out the Ace, and of course only won that trick. The merest child at the game will see that by leading the 2 he must win the game. It certainly seemed very hard to have missed two such chances, but I looked on the matter as the fortune of war, and I thought at any rate I shall have my revenge, when my partner becomes my adversary. However this was not to be, for the next time we cut in (3) Mr. Blackwood and myself became partners once more. We had scarcely played half-a-dozen rounds when my partner put his cards on the table and said, "it is no use wasting time, there is game," and he put down Hearts (trumps) Ace, King, Queen, Club Ace, Diamond Ace. It was A's lead, and we wanted all five tricks to win the game. A's hand consisted of Spades King, Queen, 10, Clubs 3, 2. X's hand (mine), was Spades 6, 5, 4, Hearts 8, 7. B's, Diamonds Knave, 7, 6, 5, 4. A led the King of Spades, and called the Club Ace from my partner; he then followed with the Spade Queen, and called the Diamond Ace, and thus we lost the game. I was angry; I try hard to keep my temper; I think it unmanly not to do so at any game, and I smother my feelings to the best of my ability, but, Sir, the cup was not full. Without my saying a word this gentleman informed me I was always finding fault, and that I was particularly fond of finding fault with him. He added that he had never seen the cards thus called before, and appealed to a bystander as to whether the cards could be so called; it is scarcely necessary to add without avail. Now I am not at all inclined to censure Mr. Blackwood in the matter. I think he does not know sufficient about the game or the laws thereof to take any liberties, but, Sir, I do protest against being scolded for not finding fault, and I do humbly suggest that my temper under such circumstances ought not to be trifled with. I acknowledge my anger, all the worse perhaps for being suppressed, but I feel I had cause for it. However, I smothered my rage as best I could, and played on. (4) In the next hand B turned up the 10 of Spades. The first time he had a lead he led the King of Hearts, which my partner won with the Ace. All the trumps were out except the turn-up and one small one in my hand. We wanted one trick to win the game. The hands were as follows, A (leader), Heart 2, Clubs 8, 7; X (Mr. Blackwood), Spade 9 (trump), Clubs 10, 9; B, Spade 10, Hearts Queen, 10; Z (myself), Heart 5, Spade 6, Diamond Knave. A led the Heart, X passed it, B won it, drew out the two trumps, and made the long Heart. To my mind there was ingenuity displayed in losing this game, and I ought, I think, to say that the bad players do display an amount of ingenuity truly amazing. (5) One more game,—one only,—I played for money with my friend Blackwood, and this time, Ass as I was, I had gone to the full extent of my tether, for not only had I betted on the game, but I must needs bet £50 to £20 on the rub after having won the first game. The score was 2 all in the third game, Hearts were trumps; I knew no one had a trump but my partner. I led out the Diamond Ace, my partner played the King of trumps, and although I yelled, "No Diamonds, partner?" the remainder of the cards were thrown on the table, and there was the Diamond Queen. The agony of that moment I shall never forget. It is not my intention to moralize. To my thinking it was more pleasant to be fleeced by my former acquaintances than to lose my money by folly such as this.

Megatherium Club, *1st October* 1871. Your obedient servant, JOHN ROBINSON.

[We recommend our young readers to put up these hands as Simple Endings, in order to learn "How not to do it."—Ed.]

DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEMS, No. LVI.

By F. H. LEWIS.

A's HAND.—D 5, 4, 3, 2; H 8, 6, 3, 2; S Kv, 2; C Q, 7, 6.

X's HAND.—D Kg, Q, Kv; H Kg, Kv, 10, 9; S Kg, 4, 3; C Kg, 10, 9.

B's HAND.—D A, 7, 6; H A, Qn; S A, Qn, 10, 6, 5; C A, Kv, 8.

Z's HAND.—D 10, 9, 8; H 7, 5, 4; S 9, 8, 7; C 5, 4, 3, 2.

A to lead, and A and B to make 5 by cards. D trumps.

WHIST CUP.—The Westminster Chess Club has challenged "The Cavendish" (the present holders of the Cup), but up to the time of writing, the challenge has not been accepted.

CROQUET SEASON 1871.

We shall give in our next number a complete list of the various meetings held throughout the season of 1871, by which it will be seen that in spite of the most inauspicious weather, the year has been one of great activity. The Grand National Croquet Club gave four open Meetings, and the All England Club three in the course of the season. The Worthing, Aldershot, Sussex County, and Fourshire Clubs appear in several open tournaments and friendly contests between themselves. We shall have to record altogether twenty-four contests, and the sum total, so to speak, of all the matches is that very little if any change has taken place in the relative position of players.

It will be remembered by those to whom the history of Croquet is known, that the first Open Tournament was given in 1867, the Challenge Cup on that occasion being won by Mr. Whitmore. The next contest of note was held at Moreton in 1868, when Mr. Whitmore was defeated by Mr. Peel. In 1869 a Challenge Cup was set up by the National Croquet Club for the Championship of All England, and this again was won by Mr. Peel, who a second time defeated Mr. Whitmore. The next year reversed matters so far as these two players were concerned, but Mr. Whitmore still only succeeded in gaining the second place, being defeated in the last round by Mr. Law. The same result takes place in 1871, Mr. Law maintaining his Championship, defeating Mr. Whitmore in the last round.

The contest next in importance to that held by the Grand National Croquet Club is the annual tournament held at Wimbledon by the All England Croquet Club. This Club, imitating the example of its active rival set up a Challenge Cup in 1870, open to all comers. Mr. Peel has been twice victorious in this contest, though defeated in the same years in the tournament given by the Grand National Croquet Club. Up to this time therefore it would appear that the prediction that new players would arise far excelling the old has not been verified. Since 1867 the new players have not succeeded in wresting the Championship from the hands of Mr. Law, Mr. Peel, and Mr. Whitmore. Many good players have arisen who play closely up to these three gentlemen, and who have occasionally been victorious over them in private matches, and contests of lesser note, but to any one who has seen the principal tournaments of the year, it must be evident that these players have maintained their superiority. There may not be a great difference, but there is a difference sufficiently marked to be evident.

The next names of note, looking over the list of winners for 1871, are Heath, Lillie, Muntz, Macfie—these having all been victorious in matches where first-rate play was found. Mr. Heath won the Members' Prize of the All England Croquet Club. Mr. Lillie came out victorious in the Open Tournament at Wimbledon, but did not succeed in beating Mr. Peel. Mr. Lillie was also the victor at Aldershot in the second Tournament of the Grand National Croquet Club, defeating Mr. Whitmore in the last round, receiving, however, one bisque from that gentleman. Mr. Muntz came off victor at Moreton, in the third meeting of the Grand National, defeating both Mr. Whitmore and Mr. Lillie. In the contest for the Championship of Scotland, Mr. Macfie, in the last round, defeated Mr. Lillie in three games to four. The three other names of note in former years, Mr. Hale, Mr. Riky and Mr. Joad do not appear very prominent in the performances of 1871, but as local players Major Lane, Mr. Soames and Captain Hallowes have won some distinction.

With respect to the Ladies, it is most difficult to adjudge the palm of excellence, and it is a matter of so much delicacy that we shrink from the invidious task of pronouncing who are the best players. The most prominent names (we give them in alphabetical order) are Miss Bagette, Miss Buckworth, Miss Blaker, Mrs. Hallowes, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Joad, Miss Jordan, Miss Peel, Miss Randell, Miss Rawlinson, Mrs. Walsh, Miss Walter. In this list we have merely given the names of winners in single matches, but some of those lady players who played second at Wimbledon and Aldershot, being defeated by only the very best players, might justly appear in the list.

The Grand National Croquet Club and the All England Croquet Club are both, we understand, prepared to make still greater exertions next year. Arrangements are announced for having monthly meetings of members of the All England Croquet Club on the Wimbledon ground. The Grand National Club is also to give six, instead of four large tournaments in a season. These meetings, according to the system of this Club, will be held at various places in England, so as to carry a knowledge of the game to every part of the kingdom.

Amongst other things it may be noted that the past season has proved not only that the interest in the game continues to grow, but that Croquet is beginning to have considerable attractions for lookers on. The attendance both at Oxford and Aldershot, at the two principal meetings of the Grand National Croquet Club, shewed nearly double the number of spectators of any former meetings. This is due not only to the spread of knowledge of the game, but perhaps also to the fact that outsiders are now firmly convinced that there are great merits in the game, though they themselves cannot quite see them. The grand result of the past season may therefore be considered as eminently satisfactory.

REVISION OF THE LAWS OF CROQUET.

WITH whom does the revision of the Laws of Croquet rest? That is the question. An article has appeared in the *Field* which speaks of the Laws as the sole property of the All England Croquet Club. If this be true, the matter is simple enough; the committee of that Club can revise the Laws as it pleases; they are no longer the Laws of the Secretaries, nor can we see why the latter should be consulted in the matter. But the same article lets it be plainly seen that the assumed position of the A.E.C.C. is not tenable, as it speaks of this Society as under a sort of engagement not to alter any law without the consent of the Secretaries, whose opinions it now invites. We can only look on this article as an artful attempt to induce the Secretaries to give up their real power in return for a very nominal compliment.

We have already pointed out that the copyright of the Laws of Croquet belongs to the Secretaries of Clubs. The copyright for one year, but expressly for one year only, was given over to the National Croquet Club conjointly with the All England Croquet Club, on the 19th of January 1870. This property therefore lapsed on the 19th of January in this year. Neither the publishers of the code, Messrs. De La Rue, nor the A.E.C.C., have therefore any right in, or jurisdiction over these Laws; nor can any illegal assertion of a right set up a right. Independently, therefore, of its insufficiency, the revision of 1871, which was not authorised by the Secretaries, whose property the Laws are, can in no way alter the case. It would be open to any individual or individuals to revise and reprint the code of 1870, just as much as to the self-appointed Committee of 1871, and the only power to restrain such action would lie with the Secretaries.

This being the case, it is necessary that the Secretaries should meet again, or we shall be liable to fall into worse confusion than ever. We are far from wishing that there should be any change of publishers, and we should also be sorry to see the matter made a legal one. Lastly, with all true lovers of the game, we would strongly deprecate the existence of a double Code, each arrogating to itself the title of the Code of the Conference. We call therefore on the Committee of the All England Croquet Club not to assume a title which the *Field* has erroneously set up, but honestly to join with other players to defend the Laws, as a general authority emanating from the Secretaries. Any other course can only end in one of two things—the diminution, or perhaps destruction of the authority under which the Code is now accepted—or otherwise (if the Secretaries should assert their own) a defeat in a court of law to the parties setting up the claim.

As regards the appeal now made by the *Field* to good players and the Secretaries of Clubs, we would, with all respect, remind the latter that they can only act collectively. The property of the Laws does not belong to individuals amongst them, but to the whole body. And though it might be in the power of individuals to take action, if any damage was done to the general property, yet they could not proceed to make alterations of copyright without a general meeting, which would imply the consent of the whole number. We have been informed, by the courtesy of the Grand National Croquet Club, that there is to be a general meeting of this Club early in this month, when the question as to the time and place of the next Conference will be considered. As all Secretaries of Clubs are *ex officio* members of the Grand National Croquet Club, an opportunity will thus be given to know what the wish of the majority is. We trust that none of the Secretaries will attempt in the meantime to take up a line of conduct independent of the main body. The Grand National Croquet Club has disclaimed all wish to set up any undue influence or authority with respect to the Laws, and it is only required that the All England Croquet Club should take the same just and reasonable course, in order to procure a good and authoritative code.

FOURSHIRE CROQUET CLUB.

THE annual contest for the Championship of this Club took place on the 11th October, and resulted in a very exciting match. At the tournament held in August to determine what lady should challenge the champion, the two players left in the last round were Miss Buckworth and Mrs. Dickins. As Miss Buckworth, owing to absence from the country, could not play out the match, it was agreed that the second player might give the challenge. In the first game Miss Jordan playing in a confident and decided manner, carried one ball all round, and followed the break by taking the second ball to the peg. But at this point Mrs. Dickins got the balls, and managing a series of breaks with admirable skill, hardly allowed her opponent a chance. In the second game Miss Jordan clearly maintained her reputation as one of the best players in the Midland Counties, and won with comparative ease. The third game was played on both sides with too much caution, the competitors being very evenly matched, and the victory being doubtful to the last. Both players brought their balls round in a succession of skilfully managed breaks, in which, however, there was too much finessing, to the last hoop, when Mrs. Dickins broke down at an easy shot, and the conquering game was decided in favour of Miss Jordan, who thus won the badge as her own. The 8-hoop setting was adopted, and the hoops were painted dark blue, in accordance with the fashion brought in by the Grand National Croquet Club. This colour is evidently so much the best, that it is likely to become universal, and we predict that the All England Club will follow the lead of the Grand National in this, as in other points.

HANDSWORTH CROQUET CLUB.

THE Handsworth Croquet Club has adopted the system now generally pursued of offering a prize for the Championship of the Club,—at least they have done so as far as their Lady members are concerned, which is more important than having a competition for the best gentleman, as it is open to the latter to establish a reputation for skill in the open contest held annually for the Championship by the Grand National Croquet Club. We subjoin the score of this contest, which was held on the Club ground in the first week of September. The prize, a very handsomely emblazoned mallet, was presented by the members of the Handsworth Cricket Club.

I.—Miss Bullock beat Miss Needham. Miss E. Thomson beat Miss F. Barrows. Miss Pemberton beat Miss Allen. Miss Solomon beat Miss Bradley. Miss C. Solomon beat Miss Bradford. Miss R. Thomson beat Mrs. Newton. Mrs. Bullock beat Miss M. Thomson. Miss Meyer beat Miss E. Bradford. Miss Garbett beat Miss Yates. Miss Peel (w.o.), Mr. T. Bullock (retired).

II.—Miss Peel beat Miss Solomon. Miss C. Solomon beat Miss Meyer. Miss Pemberton beat Miss Bullock. Miss Garbett beat Mrs. Bullock. Miss R. Thomson beat Miss E. Thomson.

III.—Miss Peel beat Miss R. Thomson. Miss Pemberton beat Miss C. Solomon. Miss Garbett (a bye).

IV.—Miss Pemberton beat Miss Garbett. Miss Peel (a bye).

V.—Miss Peel beat Miss Pemberton.

WORTHING CROQUET CLUB.

WE give the result of the weekly contest held through the month of September, by the Worthing Croquet Club, under the management of Mr. Hargood, the Hon. Sec.

LADIES' HANDICAP.

I.—Miss Wood beat Miss Tribe (4 bisques). Mrs. Gresson (1 bisque) beat Mrs. Goldsmith (retired). Miss M. Penfold beat Miss Romanes (1 bisque). Miss Sharpe (1 bisque) beat Miss A. Penfold. Mrs. Joad beat Miss E. Penfold (5 bisques). Mrs. Warren (1 bisque) beat Mrs. Safe. Miss E. Romaines beat Miss A. Stephenson (1 bisque). Miss Henty (a bye).

II.—Miss Wood beat Mrs. Gresson (1 bisque). Miss Sharpe (1 bisque) beat Miss M. Penfold. Mrs. Joad beat Mrs. Warren (3 bisques). Miss Henty beat Miss E. Romanes (1 bisque).

III.—Miss Wood beat Miss Sharpe (3 bisques). Mrs. Joad beat Miss Henty (1 bisque).

IV.—Miss Wood (1 bisque) beat Mrs. Joad.

GENTLEMEN'S HANDICAP.

I.—Mr. E. Henty beat Mr. D. H. Safe (1 bisque). Mr. Metcalfe beat Captain Warren (3 bisques). Mr. A. Henty (1 bisque) beat Mr. G. C. Joad. Mr. H. Hargood beat Mr. E. M. Wood. Mr. Salwey (a bye).

II.—Mr. E. Henty beat Mr. Metcalfe. Mr. A. Henty beat Mr. Salwey (3 bisques). Mr. Hargood (a bye).

III.—Mr. A. Henty beat Mr. Hargood. Mr. E. Henty (a bye).

IV.—Mr. E. Henty beat Mr. A. Henty.

THE CONSOLATION PRIZE,
Miss Henty.

DRAMATIC NOTES.

IT is reported, with what amount of truth we are unable to state, that the theatres are not flourishing, and that the season has not as yet been the source of much profit to managers. Those stingy people who are perpetually fishing for orders from anybody whom they conceive to be able to obtain them, are said to have their desires well satisfied, and it is even whispered that the management of the Queen's theatre, where "free admission is abolished for ever," has succumbed to the necessity of issuing "paper." This state of affairs is certainly discouraging, but to the intelligent student of dramatic doings, not perhaps surprising. The novelties which we noticed last month were not good enough, or not popular enough to attract public favour, and therefore no amount of managerial manifestoes, of Opinions of the Press, or of dead-wall advertising, would make them successful. When we consider how one-sided is the fight between managers and the public, which has little left besides its own instinct to tell a good piece from a bad one, it is surprising that the victory does not remain more often with the former. Managers have many things in their favour. In the first place it is now the custom, prior to the production of a new play, to issue a proclamation dilating on its merits, on the cost with which it has been prepared, on the labours of the scene painter and the machinist, and lastly on the excellence of the performers engaged for its representation. Thus we have had lately addresses of this kind from Mr. Clifton, Mr. Chatterton, Mr. Montague, and Mr. Wilkie Collins. Then, scarcely is the ink dry on the reviews of the several critics, before the laudatory parts (and the critics never damn altogether) are dexterously whipped out, like the pearl from the oyster, and inserted in the daily papers as the Opinions of the Press. It will be seen that Mr. Chatterton occupies half a column of the *Times* with these cullings, and were these taken as samples of the whole, it might be thought that *Rebecca* was an astonishing good play. As a matter of fact it has been unfavourably reviewed. Again, it is the wise policy of managers to fill the pit and

gallery on the first night with hard-handed myrmidons. Does an independent pittite presume to express dissent from the prevailing enthusiasm, he is silenced by the outcries of his neighbours. If he persists, he is dragged out without ceremony, and locked up in a police cell all night, to study the art of conformity. Against these heavy odds the playgoer has only one course to pursue. Though he has been lured to visit the theatre himself, unlike the fox in the fable he dissuades his friends from doing likewise, and so gains the victory. For example, *Hinko* has disappeared; *Fanchette* has disappeared; the unfortunate Holborn has silently shut up, and the National Opera, which offended more than all in the matter of puffing, and outrageous fictions of crowded houses, has flitted, before its time, from the St. James's to Shoreditch. *Apple Blossoms* is in a ricketty condition, and is being propped up by farce and burlesque on either side. The Haymarket is giving its periodical performances of *The Rivals*, and the *School for Scandal*, which may be looked upon as a sign of weakness. The Gaiety programme is in a constant state of transition, and Drury Lane depends on the provinces, and on that peculiar feeling which induces people to go to Drury Lane for the same reason that they go to church. We have rapidly touched on these matters in order to justify our remarks of last month; but on the other hand, let us record with satisfaction that two good and thoroughly enjoyable plays have been added to dramatic literature during this month. These two plays are totally distinct from each other, the one being characterized by good dialogue but bad construction; the other by good and novel construction, but by dialogue which, though not indifferent, is not brilliant. We allude to *Partners for Life* at the Globe, and the *Woman in White* at the Olympic.

The excellence of a play naturally depends on the merits of its construction and dialogue; and its success hangs on these two points, and on the manner in which they are illustrated by the actors. The construction of few plays will bear looking into now-a-days, and this important loss is hardly compensated by the specimens of good dialogue with which Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Byron, or Mr. Albery may occasionally favour us. But of good acting there is an abundance, and, to the student of dramatic criticism, some such summing up as this must be very familiar: "The good actors engaged failed to infuse any vitality into the stilted dialogue of Mr. Wordy, &c., &c." But numbers of our best and most promising actors and actresses are driven from London, by the job system now in vogue, to seek better fortunes in the provinces, in America, or in the colonies. It is therefore creditable to Mr. Montague that he has collected a very fair company for the performance of Mr. Byron's new comedy, *Partners for Life*, who do not suffer that author's witty sayings to be lost for want of expression. Mr. Montague, bitten by the prevailing fever, issues a manifesto in which he contradicts himself, by stating in one place that Mr. Byron has been for some time engaged on this comedy, and in another, that it was specially written for the artistes engaged. Considering that the company was hastily collected together on Mr. Montague's recent secession from the Vaudeville, the two statements can hardly be reconciled. But there can be no two opinions as to the merits of Mr. Byron's dialogue, which is clever, witty and pleasant, and never offends against good taste, as does the handiwork of Mr. Albery. Nor is the representation unworthy of the dialogue. The light bickerings of the young lovers are well pourtrayed by Miss Fanny Josephs—who acts as she never acted before, and by Mr. C. Neville, a stranger to London, but an actor full of promise. The more serious lovers are enacted by Mr. Montague and Miss C. Addison. Mr. Montague is rapidly becoming a good actor, thanks to his own industry and his association with other good actors; and Miss Addison is, as she always is,—charming and natural. But the construction of the play is painfully absurd, and suggests the idea that Mr. Byron originally intended it for a burlesque. The insufficiency of motive is ludicrously aggravating. A gentlemen submits himself for years to the influence of a brutish butler, because, at some period of his life, he married an unpleasant woman of low origin, and a loving husband and wife part, careless of what becomes of each other, because the lady had more money than the gentleman, and told him so in an unguarded moment. This is the whole plot.

Every one must hail the reappearance of Mr. Wilkie Collins as a dramatic author, and every one must hope that the *Woman in White* is only the first of a series of works from the same pen, and that the melodramas of Mr. Collins, for the *Woman in White* is a melodrama, will worthily divide the favours of the public with modern comedy. Mr. Collins is a master of construction. Each incident of his work is fitted into the other with mathematical precision, every inconsistency is carefully planed down, and the polish of a practised workman is over all. Discarding the conventional conclusion, he allows the future happiness of Harbright and Laura to be imagined by the audience, and kills Fosco decently out of sight, the curtain falling on the single figure of Madame Fosco. But it appears to us that the plot is over-elaborated, and that there is a little too much of Count Fosco, or of Mr. Vining, who represents the character. A well-constructed play like the *Woman in White* will surely tell its own story, but Mr. Collins deems it necessary that the audience should be continually informed by word of mouth concerning what has happened, and what is about to happen. The prologue is a case in point. The action is constantly delayed by each personage stopping to unbosom him or herself to the audience, to an extent that is quite unnatural. First Anne Catherick pours into the unwilling ears of Sir Percival her reasons for loving Mrs. Fairlie, and so prospectively for watching over the fortunes of Mrs. Fairlie's daughter. Then Sir Percival and Mrs. Catherick indulge in a long retrospective history. No sooner does Professor Pesca come on the stage, than he is suddenly reminded that he has a letter in his pocket concerning the Italian brotherhood. This he takes out, and

reads to the audience. Last, and worst of all, Sir Percival, in the very act of taking the marriage register from the vestry cupboard, stops to "recall once more" the reasons for his felonious conduct, careless of time or place. We venture to submit, with all deference to Mr. Collins, that some of this is superfluous. He appears to have distributed among the characters the business which used to be fulfilled by the Chorus. It would perhaps be more appropriate to modernise Shakespeare's Gower, or "Rumour painted all over with tongues," and allow a neat gentleman in evening dress to come forward at the end of each act, and unfold the plot of the next to the audience. By these means the play would be shortened, and the expense of the orchestra abolished. In the earlier portions of the play there is hardly cause enough for the gloomy and lurid atmosphere which surrounds the story. The chief iniquity, the one we are called upon to abhor most, is the immuring of Laura Glyde in a lunatic asylum in the place of Anne Catherick. This project does not come into the head of Count Fosco till the close of the second act, and the sole previous cause for the general horror and discomfort is the attempt of Sir Percival to extort money from his wife. In real life men go about extorting money from their wives and other people without wearing tragedy airs. Again, the appearance at the back of the scene of the two Italians in the last act, is too violent. This has been introduced, we understand, since the first night, to show the ignorant audience how Fosco is presently to be disposed of. The amendment is a mistake, for such a man as Fosco could not help seeing the intruders. But with all this, the play is one that confers honour on the author, and distinction on the stage, and is undoubtedly the success of the season. The acting of Mrs. Viner as Miss Halcombe, and Miss Ada Dyas as Laura Glyde and Anne Catherick, would have carried a worse play into the popular favour. Miss Dyas is possessed both of force and grace, and has the now rare merit of speaking distinctly and clearly. Mr. Vining's Fosco is an intelligent conception, carefully and honestly carried out by himself, and approved by the author, but he is not the Fosco as conceived by the majority of the readers of Mr. Collins. He is neither quiet nor soft, and fills up too much space. As for Sir Percival Glyde and Walter Hartright, they are not fairly treated. Whenever they open their mouths to speak, they are shut up by the irrepressible Count, and take refuge in sulky silence.

It appears that the spectacle of Miss Bateman, as Fanchette, sporting with her shadow in the moonlight, failed to attract the London public to the Lyceum. Miss Bateman therefore is remitted to the provinces, there to sport herself into the good graces of the countrymen; and *Fanchette* is replaced by a dramatic version of the Pickwick Papers, adapted to the stage by Mr. Albery. The selection hardly does credit to Mr. Bateman's reputation for acuteness. Of all novels, those of Mr. Dickens are the least adapted for stage representation, and of all the works of Dickens, the Pickwick Papers is the least dramatic. It is confessedly a series of sketches, and as such, about as much fitted for the stage as the Book of Chronicles. That Mr. Albery has failed is therefore no discredit to him, but the fact of his having made the endeavour at all argues an amount of assurance rare in so young a dramatist. It is needless to enter into a description of the play; Mr. Albery has jumbled up scenes and incidents in the oddest manner, and has concentrated some half-dozen ladies into two. His original and most sensible intention was, we presume, to give prominence to the character of Jingle, and we are therefore surprised that he did not give us the dramatic episode of Jingle's adventures in the Fleet. But he discards his first idea to drag in the bed room scene at Ipswich, in which the business of the clown and pantaloon in a pantomime is closely copied, but which was prevented from becoming offensive by the moderation of Mr. Addison, who was excellently made up as Pickwick. Indeed, we had nearly congratulated ourselves that we should escape a specimen of Mr. Albery's peculiar style. Vain delusion! An outrageous *double-entendre* in the last act, luckily, from its Billingsgate origin, totally unintelligible to the ladies present, dissipated our hopes. The one good feature of the performance was the Jingle of Mr. Irving, who carried the audience with him, and looked the character to the life. The part of Sam Weller is beneath the abilities of Mr. Belmore, and more adapted to the style of Mr. Toole.

Mr. Gilbert's new comedy, *On Guard*, at the Court, *The Tempest* at the Queen's, and *Love for Love* at the Gaiety, are produced too late for notice this month. We cannot conclude without calling attention to the fact that burlesque, a year or two ago so popular, is this season presented at only two theatres, and in each case is made subservient to comedy. This absence would be very gratifying, if we could believe in its permanent nature. On the other hand the popular taste for circuses seems to have revived, no less than three of these establishments having been opened during the last two months. We care little either for a circus or a burlesque, but we are bound to confess that if we are to have one, we prefer an equine to an asinine display.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WHIST.

W.B.—A, by consent, deals for B. In throwing the last card (the turn-up) to the dealer, it drops face downwards on the table. Is this a mis-deal?—*Ans.* If the trump card fell on any pack it is a mis-deal. If it did not touch any other cards on the table it is not a mis-deal.

J.K.—In case of an exposed card, two cards having been played by a player to a trick, have the opponents the right (the lead being with offender's partner) to call a suit or not?—*Ans.* The penalty of calling a suit from the offender's partner can only be inflicted when the player leads out of turn, and such a penalty cannot be inflicted for exposing a card.

V.R.—A gentleman with whom I was playing a rubber last night, made a few statements on which I request your opinion: 1st. That there were really no such things as Laws in Whist; books on the subject differing so widely that, in fact, one man's opinion was as good as another's. 2ndly. Having led the Queen of Trumps, and the trick having been won by the fourth player, 'he' asserted that his partner ought to have put on the Ace of Trumps. 3rdly. My partner turned up King of Spades. I had a very fine hand in plain suits, with Queen of Spades and a small one. I won the first trick, played in my Queen, went on with the Spade and won the game. 'Gentleman' congratulates me (bitterly); but asserts that I do not deserve to win, as "no good player ever leads a Queen." 4thly. My partner has King of Trumps, and of course very improperly says at the close of the game, "One trick is yours and one is ours," and exposes his two cards—King and 9. 'Gentleman' remarks, "I don't know that;" he then plays the Queen of Trumps, and my poor scared partner pushes forward the 9. Ace is then played, and my partner's King falls, and we lose game and rubber. All is over, and I say to my partner, "you need not have committed suicide; why did you not wait to be asked for the 9, and if the request did not come, play the King?" 'Gentleman' observes: "Nonsense, he is bound to play as he did when his cards have been seen." I ventured to reply, "You are bound to ask for and name an exposed card, and if you don't do this in reasonable time, my partner may play which he pleased." Is 'Gentleman' right?—*Ans.* 1st. The Laws of Whist contained in Baldwin's book were agreed to by the principal clubs, and have since been adopted by every club in the United Kingdom. We know of no private house where they are not binding. The same laws are contained in Cavendish's last edition; but his own laws, in prior editions, were to all intents and purposes the same. If there was a difference, it was in favor of Cavendish, for his laws were more clearly written, and the arrangement was better than the Club Code. No other code but Hoyle's, worthy of the name, has been published in the last eight years. It may be that one man's opinion is as good as another's, "perhaps better." 2ndly. We should not (3rd hand) put the Ace on the Queen led in Trumps unless there were some special reason, such as a cross ruff on, and we were very anxious to have two rounds. 3rdly. The assertion would be equivalent to saying, "with Queen and another trump, you must never lead trumps." Surely this is not seriously contended. Nor can any player imagine that with Queen and another the other should be led. To us the Queen seems a natural and proper lead. 4thly. If both cards are on the table, and the leader or his partner had a preference for the one card over the other they should say so. If not, and no demand is made, and we were not told to stop, we should; after a reasonable time had elapsed, have played the card we thought best. It is nonsense to suppose the defaulter is to know by instinct which card his adversaries wish him to play, and they might have desired the other card.

P.—Dealing. I deal. The last card but one comes in proper rotation to me. The last card belongs to another pack. Is it a misdeal?—*Ans.* In this case the pack is redundant, and there must be a fresh deal.

CHESS.

J. A. W. H. (Edinburgh).—Problems received, and they shall have our best attention.

A. LULMAN (Melbourne).—We are much obliged for your packet, from which we have selected two for immediate publication. The others require further examination, but they shall not be forgotten.

C. E. R. (Eton).—Many thanks for the games. They shall appear in our December Number.

J. W. ABBOTT.—Very welcome. As the advertised correspondence hath it, "Send us another lot."

E. J. L.—Thanks for the position. You are mistaken in supposing that no problem of that description has appeared in this journal. You will find one in the part for November 1868, and two in the number for January 1870. Curiously enough, one of these embodies precisely the same idea as your own.

HELENUS (Melbourne).—Too late for the Tourney, we regret to say, but as Count Fosco observes, "Consoling thought, inspiriting conclusion,"—two out of the three are defective! No. 1 can be solved as follows:—

1. B to Q 7	1. K to R 8

If Black plays his King to B 6, then—2. R takes P, and we have a position occurring in your own solution:—

2. B to B 5	2. K moves
3. B to Kt 4	3. K moves
4. B to B 3 mate	

In No. 2 the following appears to be a true bill:—

1. B to Kt 4	1. P moves
2. R to R 6	2. P takes R
3. B to Q 7	3. P moves
4. P to Kt 6 dis ch mate	

In both cases your own conceptions are exceedingly good, and the errors have arisen, it is easily seen, from want of time for examination. We have taken care, in our next Tourney, to give our colonial friends a longer notice, so that they may enter the competition with a fairer chance of success.

A. S. (Manchester).—Thanks. We shall look for the further contributions promised.

G. B. F. (Dundee).—Pamphlet received, with thanks. It will occasionally be very serviceable.

W. HOCKINS (Truro).—We have to crave your kind indulgence. Our apparent want of attention is attributable to the holidays. During that season—

Ruy Lopez produces wry faces;
Algaier suggests our sad fates;
Scotch Gambits bring thoughts of the Highlands,
And Philidor—beautiful mates.

Only the mates that we have been thinking of are not the mates that you have written about.

MAX W. (Magdeburg).—They shall be examined, and if found correct inserted in due course.

NEC TIMEO, NEC SPERNO.—We have referred to the original manuscript of your problem, and find that there is no White Pawn placed on Q R 3. Better luck next time.

J. O. H. T. (Norwich).—Any communication from you shall have our best attention. As early in the month as may be possible, please.

J. KLING.—Thanks. Always glad to hear from you.

A. TOWNSEND (Newport).—As a specialty it is rather neat, and shall be inserted if found to be correct.

H. J. WEBBER.—We shall be glad to render every assistance so so laudable a purpose.

DESDECHADO, a valued correspondent, writes as follows:—"I have always held to the somewhat uncommon theory, that the Chess faculty is one of a very peculiar order; that the possession of it, even to the greatest extent, is no proof of a high order of intellect; but on the contrary, is in very many cases rather an obliquity of mind. Your own experience of many of the leading German players of the day—of course I except Andersen, Hanstein, and a few others—and at least two of the great English players, will to a certain extent bear out this theory. I can give you rather an amusing instance as a case in point. For some time past I have been in the habit of playing with a gentleman to whom I give the odds of a Rook; although a villainously bad player, he has a considerable knowledge of the books, and the amount of instruction he has gleaned from them may be seen from the following variation. In the Scotch Gambit we invariably progress as follows:—

White (Desdechado)	Black (Mr. ———)
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4
2. Kt to K B 3	2. Kt to Q B 3
3. P to Q 4	3. P takes P
4. B to Q B 4	4. B to Kt 5 ch
5. P to Q B 3	5. P takes P
6. P takes P	

At this stage of the proceedings, Black, ignoring the fact that I have no Q R on the board, plays Q to K B 3, and on my taking the Bishop Q to Q R 8.

The Westminster Papers.

1st DECEMBER 1871.

THE CHESS WORLD.

"The whisperings of our petty burgh."

A MATCH between Messrs. Owen and Skipworth, for the "Champion Cup" of the Counties' Chess Association, was commenced and concluded during the past month, and terminated in favour of Mr. Owen, who scored four to Mr. Skipworth's one; one game being drawn. We are unable to place the games before our readers, because, in contempt of a resolution of the members of the Association, that all Chess journals should be impartially dealt with in the distribution of the games for publication, we have received none of them. It is not for us to prefer a complaint upon such a subject as this—we distinctly disclaim all intention of doing so; and we only give expression to the opinions of others in affirming that the members of the Association have fair grounds for dissatisfaction in the fact that their resolution has not been observed in the case of the journal which has a larger circulation among Chess players in all parts of the world than any other publication in these islands. But this is not the only regulation of the Association which has been ignored. It is, to say the least of it, a curious circumstance that the gentleman who, notwithstanding the opposition of many influential Chess players, most pertinaciously insisted upon the retention of the rule that the matches for the Challenge Cup should be played in the parish in which the holder for the time being resides, should have been the first to transgress the law he succeeded in enacting. We desire to speak with all due respect of the gentleman, who we have reason to believe represents the Counties' Chess Association, but after what has passed it is utterly ridiculous to put forth the statement which has appeared in a weekly contemporary, that henceforth the rule will be strictly enforced. We venture to say that it can only be adhered to in the future upon considerations which would render the late match null and void—a mere passage of arms between two gentlemen, occurring at the private residence of one of them, in which the Chess playing public has no concern. In short, there is now only one of two courses open to the manager or managers (if there is a plurality) of the Counties' Chess Association. Either the late match is to be annulled, or the choice of place for contesting future claims to the provincial championship must be left to the mutual agreement of the players. So long, however, as the matches are conducted upon the "hole and corner" principle of which we have just had an illustration we believe the Chess world will care very little which of the two courses is adopted.

A friendly meeting between the Chess-players of the "Sister Cities," Bath and Bristol, came off at the Athenæum, Bristol, on the 2nd ult. Mr. Thorold acted as umpire, and the conditions of the contest were—. The combatants to play on even terms; that at starting the players should be paired by lot; and that no pair should meet over two consecutive games. No fewer than forty-seven players took part in this amicable fray—twenty-three for Bath, and twenty-four for Bristol—but these figures, inspiriting as they appear and are, afford only a very faint idea of the success which characterised the gathering. Eighty-eight games were played in all, of which Bristol scored forty-six, Bath thirty-two, and ten were drawn. There was no handicapping, and therefore the contest does not and was not intended to indicate any real test of the compararive strength of the respective Clubs. One of the pleasantest features of the meeting was the presence of two lady players, Mrs. Saunders and Miss Watson. The latter lady had no "carpet knight" to contend with, but the game shewn in the margin proves that in Miss Watson Bath possesses a Chess player of much ability.

Black (Mr. Selkirk).	White (Miss Watson)
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4
2. Kt to K B 3	2. Kt to Q B 3
3. B to Q B 4	3. B to Q B 4
4. Castles	4. Kt to K B 3
5. P to Q 4	5. B takes P
6. Kt takes B	6. Kt takes Kt
7. P to K B 4	7. P to Q 3
8. P takes P	8. P takes P
9. B to K Kt 5	9. Q to Q 3
10. B takes Kt	10. P takes B
11. P to Q B 3.	11. Kt to K
12. Q takes Q	12. P takes Q
13. R takes P	13. K to K 2
14. R to K B 2	14. R to K Kt sq
15. Kt to Q 2	15. B to Q 2
16. Q R to K B sq	16. R to K Kt 2
17. B to Q 5	17. B to Q B 3
18. Kt to K B 3	18. Kt to K B 5
19. K to R sq	19. Kt takes B
20. P takes Kt	20. B takes P
21. Kt to K R 4	21. B to K 3

After a protracted contest, Miss Watson's additional Pawn ultimately achieved the victory.

Mr. Blackburne continues his tour of the provincial Chess Clubs, and we are glad to record that in his contests he has been invariably successful. On the 15th ult. he appeared in Birmingham, and played concurrently nineteen of the strongest players of that town, winning a large majority of the games. On the following day he played ten games simultaneously, without seeing the board, and lost none. Our opinion of Mr. Blackburne's blindfold Chess has been set forth in a recent number, and we notice with satisfaction that

his late performance excited the attention of the *Birmingham Daily Post*, who devoted a leader to the consideration of the subject. This interesting article concludes with a suggestion that the game of Chess should be taught to the inmates of our blind asylums. We shall be very glad to see the experiment tried, but we believe, nevertheless, that it can only be successful in the case of those who have previously *seen* a Chess Board and Chess pieces; understanding their uses and powers, and so enabling them to create a vivid mental picture or photograph of the game in the various phases of its progress. As the subject is an interesting one, we may recur to it in a future number.

On Tuesday last Mr. Blackburne contended with seventeen picked players at Bristol. His opponents were Messrs. Crawford, Barry, J. Sanders, Lea, Thomson, Banfield, D. Vines, Moseley, A. Lea, Michael, Hibbins, Lewis, Maughan, Cleland, Isaac, Boucher and Dole. The play resulted in Mr. Blackburne winning every game but one, his only successful opponent being Mr. Vines. On Thursday he played in a series of consultation games, and on Friday he played blindfold ten of the strongest men that could be arrayed against him.

The formation of a Chess Club so far North as Inverness deserves more than a passing notice, from its establishment being a hopeful indication of the spread of the game in Great Britain. We take this opportunity of suggesting to the young society, and indeed to older clubs as well, that much might be done in the good work of extending a sound knowledge of Chess if the study of the history and literature of the game was encouraged and recognised, by the distribution of small prizes—Chess books—for papers upon these subjects, contributed by the members. Although the author of the saying that "the best way of studying any branch of science is to write a book on it" intended a sneer, there is more truth in his gibe than he meant to make apparent. It is clear, at all events, that the writer must take some pains to understand as he goes, and in any case the reading of an essay upon the origin and history of a particular opening, showing some evidences of original analysis would give that additional interest and variety to the meetings of Chess Clubs which our experience of them suggests to be necessary. The Inverness Club commences its career under auspices most favourable to its prosperity and longevity. Mr. E. Forsyth, of the *Inverness Advertiser*, is the President, Messrs. G. E. Barbier and J. Williamson the Vice-Presidents, and Mr. W. B. Mason, a very promising problemist, the Honorary Secretary.

The Chess department of the *Gentleman's Journal* is as interesting as ever, and should be specially so to problem composers, for under Mr. Meyer's management the problems appearing in that periodical may rank with those contributed to any Chess journal. We commend to the notice of our readers the Photographic Chess Board—a valuable collection of the portraits of English Chess Players—just published by Mr. Meyer. The large copy is the best, and although highest in price (six shillings) is to our mind cheaper than those which can be obtained for eighteenpence. A new weekly paper, called the *Olio* (London), contains a "Chess column." The number we have seen gives a good problem by F. C. Collins, and a game which, as it was anonymous, we confess we did not examine. At the City of London Club, the handicap tournament (open to members only) has been commenced. Forty-eight players have entered the lists, and the pairing for the first round has been finally arranged. We shall have the pleasure of reporting progress in future numbers.

The files of the *Australasian*, the *Leader*, of Melbourne, and the *Observer*, of Adelaide, received this month are unusually interesting, and afford convincing evidence of the extraordinary popularity of the game in these colonies. The Melbourne handicap tournament was rapidly drawing to a conclusion, and the first prize therein appeared to be what sporting men term "a moral" for Mr. Goldsmith, who received the odds of pawn and move. In the Sydney tournament Mr. Ryan, who had scored eleven games without the loss of one, appeared to be the favourite.

Our limited space, if not our modesty, must always preclude us from quoting any of the numerous favourable criticisms of the public press of which we have, from time to time, been the grateful recipients. We think however that the following extract from the *Australasian*, of the 2nd September last, will have an interest for the general body of English Chess-players, as well as for ourselves, and we therefore offer no apology for inserting it:—

The Westminster Papers.—The number which arrived by the mail contains a large collection of games and problems, and all the current Chess news of the day. The variety of interesting intelligence and information contained in that portion of this periodical which is allotted to Chess, forms a pleasant contrast to the stereotyped and uninteresting Chess column of the *Illustrated London News*.

From the report read upon the occasion of the annual meeting of the members of the Adelaide Chess Club, on the 31st August last, we learn that the Club consists of 38 members, and that there was a considerable surplus in the hands of the Treasurer. On the motion of Mr. Thwaites, seconded by Mr. Steele, it was decided that a tournament should be played during the ensuing year, the appointment of a handicapping committee to be left to the competitors.

The dominion of Canada has been "annexed" to the Empire of Chess, and in the *Western Advertiser* (London, Ontario) possesses a representative who will be welcomed at the Court of Caissa. A problem tourney is in progress, and we notice, with pleasure, that the editor's "Instructions in Chess" steers clear of the two cardinal sins of didactic writers,—servility and prolixity.

The American journals report that the arrangements for a National Congress of American Chess players have been definitely concluded. To the Clubs of Cleveland and Detroit must be accorded the honour of having promoted and organised this meeting, which is intended not only to test the comparative merits of American players and problem composers, but comprehends the formation of a permanent American Chess Association. From the *Dubuque Journal* we obtain the information that play will be commenced on the 5th December next, that the players will be divided into two classes, and that the prizes (to be increased if the assistance received should warrant it), will be distributed as follows:—First Class: 1st prize, 100 dollars; 2nd prize, 50 dollars; 3rd prize, 40 dollars; and 4th prize, 30 dollars. Second Class: 50, 25, 15 and 10 dollars as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th prizes respectively. Time limit twelve moves to the hour. In the Problem Tourney a prize of 15 dollars will be given for the best set of two, three and four move problems; a second prize of 10 dollars, and one of 5 dollars for the best single problem. All the problems to be ordinary mates.

The *Chess Journal* has increased its many attractions by presenting with each number excellent photograph portraits of eminent living players. Those of Louis Paulsen and Max Judd have already appeared.

"McKenzie's Chess Chronicle" in the *Turf Field and Farm* (New York) is an excellent Chess column. As specimens of Mr. McKenzie's later play are rare in this country, our readers will thank us for extracting the game and notes appended.

REMOVE WHITE'S K KT.

White. Mr. M.	Black. Mr. P.	White. Mr. M.	Black. Mr. P.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	25. B to Q B	25. K to B 2
2. P to Q 4	2. P takes P	26. R to Q	26. R to K Kt
3. B to Q B 4	3. Kt to Q B 3	27. K R to K B	27. Q to K Kt 2
4. Castles	4. P to Q 3	28. R to Q 2	28. B to Q 2
5. P to Q B 3	5. B to K 2	29. Q to K	29. P to Q Kt 5
6. P takes P	6. Kt to K B 3	30. B to Q	30. B to Q Kt 4
7. Kt to Q B 3	7. Castles	31. B to K 2	31. K to K 2 (d)
8. B to Q Kt 3	8. P to KR 3	32. R to Q B 2	32. P to Q B 4
9. P to K R 3	9. P to Q R 3	33. B takes B (e)	33. P takes B
10. P to K B 4	10. P to Q Kt 4	34. Q to K 2	34. P to Q B 5
11. P to Q 5	11. Kt to Q R 4 (b)	35. Q to K	35. P to B 6
12. B to Q B 2	12. Kt to Q B 5	36. Q to K 2	36. K R to Q Kt (f)
13. P to Q Kt 3	13. Kt to Q Kt 3	37. P to Q R 3	37. Kt P takes P
14. Q to Q 3	14. P to K Kt 3	38. R takes Q B P	38. P to Q Kt 5
15. P to K B 5	15. P to K Kt 4	39. R to B 7 ch	39. Kt to Q 2
16. Kt to K 2 (c)	16. Q Kt to Q 2	40. Q to Q B 2	40. Kt to K 4
17. P to K R 4	17. Kt to K 4	41. B to K B 4	41. K to Q
18. Q to Q 2	18. K Kt to Kt 5	42. R takes Kt	42. B P takes B
19. B to Q Kt 2	19. P takes R P	43. P to K B 6	43. Q to Kt B 2
20. Kt to K B 4	20. B to K Kt 4	44. Q to Q B 6	44. P to Q R 7
21. Q to K 2	21. B takes Kt	45. R to Q R	45. R to Q B (g)
22. R takes B	22. Q to Kt 4	46. R takes Q R P	46. Q R to Q Kt
23. Q R to K B	23. P to K R 4	47. R to Q B 2	47. R takes R
24. K to R	24. P to K B 3		

And White mates in three moves.

(a) Apprehensive of Kt takes K P. (b) Black loses time by these manœuvres on the Queen's side.
(c) P to K R 4 would be considerably stronger, as Black has now the opportunity of planting his Q Kt at K 4.
(d) Intending next move to play his Kt to K 6. (e) P takes P en passant would lose at once, on account of Black's reply of Kt to K 6. (f) Q R to this square seems preferable, as White is now relieved from all pressure on the King's side.
(g) This move leaves Black without resource.

"Better late than never," will always be true of the *Leipsic Schachzeitung*. The publication of the September number has been delayed, owing to the absence of the Editor, Herr Minckwitz, who has been taking an active part in the tournaments held in August and September last at Ems, Crefeld, and Wiesbaden. At the last-named place the second prize was taken by Stern, to whom his namesakes, the stars, seem favourable alike in peace and war, for he also obtained the second prize at Ems. The following is the result of the play at the three meetings: Ems—first prize, Dr. Mieses; second, A. Stern; third, Metz. Crefeld—first prize, L. Paulsen; second, divided between Andersen and Minckwitz. Wiesbaden—first prize, Goring; second, A. Stern. The September number of our Leipsic contemporary contains *fourteen games* and *twenty-nine problems*. Comment is unnecessary.

The *Berlin Scachzeitung* (Editor J. H. Zukertort) for October, has come to hand as we go to press. The games and problems, particularly the end game positions, are of the usual high-class character. We learn from this periodical that a Chess column has been commenced in the *Wiener Sontagsblattes*, under the direction of H. Lehner, whose problems are favourably known in this country.

The Secretary of the Brighton Chess Club has issued a notice intimating that members of other Clubs visiting Brighton will be admitted during their temporary residence on payment of "a small sum" to the landlord of the Albion Hotel, or £1 1s for an annual subscription.

WESTMINSTER CHESS CLUB PROBLEM TOURNEY.

We have received a number of communications, pointing out certain alleged defects in one of the set of problems to which conditionally the first prize was awarded. Copies of these have been handed to the judges, who have requested us to state that their decision will be given in good time for publication in our next number.

BRILLIANT VARIATIONS.

To the Editor of the Westminster Papers.

Dear Mr. Editor.—A few days back, on looking over some of the diagrams in Dufresne's *Handbuch*, my attention was attracted by a situation on page 505 representing the position of the forces in a game won by Professor Anderssen of Herr Szen.

The idea struck me that Anderssen might have obtained a tremendous attack by sacrificing his Rook and Knight instead of offering, as in the actual game, the brilliant but palpable bait of the Queen.

The pursuit of this idea led to the discovery that several mates of singular interest flowed from it. The proof of this is subjoined, but the variations being original and worked out without any assistance whatever, it is probable if not certain that shorter and finer roads to victory are open to Black than those hereafter indicated.

Be this as it may, the capacities of the position seem to have been strangely overlooked hitherto by the best authorities.

At Vol. II. p. 208 of the *Chess Players' Chronicle*, the editor remarks upon the 21st move of Anderssen (for which I submit a substitute) :—

"We have not time to comment critically upon the points in this game, but we recommend our young players' attention to its termination as highly instructive and amusing also."

Upon the same move the *Handbuch* of Dufresne, published in 1863, has this note :—

"Ein trefflicher Zug, Würde Weiss die Dame nehmen, so sagt Schwarz in wenigen Zügen Matt."

The *Handbuch* of Bilguer and Von der Lasa, 4th Edition, published in 1864, simply observes thereon :—

"Ein sehr eleganter Zug, der aber nicht am schnellsten die Entscheidung herbeiführt."

Again, Mr. Hazeltine's *Brevity and Brilliancy* (which includes several games affording mate positions, whether mate was actually effected or *not*) does not contain the game in question.

Mr. Staunton however has, I find, suggested in the book of the Tournament, that Anderssen had a forced mate ; but every clue is withheld.

If the variations below are sound this course seems odd, and especially so because, in the *Chess Praxis*, p. 162, the same author gives a most elaborate analysis of a position in the celebrated Evans' Gambit with Dufresne. Mr. Staunton makes in the *Praxis* some pungent remarks on Herr Anderssen's omission to give variations in the last mentioned *partie*, concluding, from his utter silence with respect to any other line of operations, that the variations were either unseen or imperfectly analysed. Can we draw from Mr. Staunton's reticence any inference other than that which he himself drew from Herr Anderssen's ?

But to proceed without further comment, the following are the moves in the game referred to leading to the situation under consideration :—

Fourth Game in the Tournament of 1851, between Messrs. Anderssen and Szen.—Sicilian Opening.

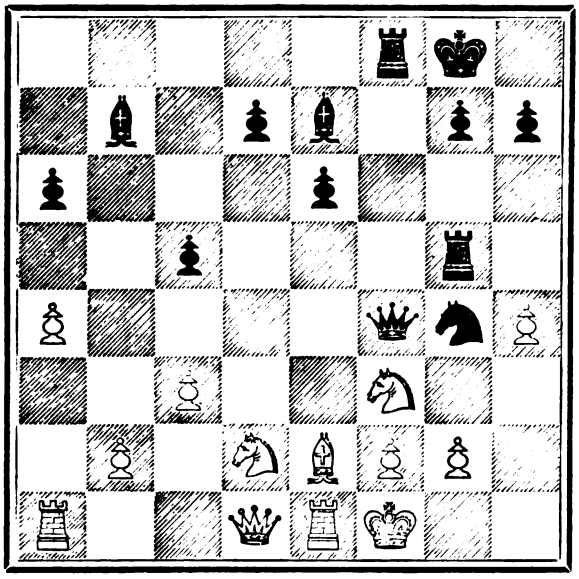
White Herr Szen.	Black. Herr Anderssen.	White. Herr Szen.	Black. Herr Anderssen.
1. P to K 4	1. P to Q B 4	12. P to Q B 3	12. Q B to Q Kt 2
2. Kt to K B 3	2. Kt to Q B 3	13. Q Kt to Q 2	13. Q to Q B 2
3. Kt to Q B 3	3. P to K 3	14. P to Q 4	14. K Kt to K B 5
4. K B to Q B 4	4. P to Q R 3	15. Q to Q sq	15. Q R to K B sq
5. P to Q R 4	5. K Kt to K 2	16. Q P takes P	16. P takes P
6. Q to K 2	6. K Kt to K Kt 3	17. Q B takes Kt	17. Q takes B
7. P to Q 3	7. K B to K 2	18. K R to K sq	18. Q Kt to K 4
8. Q B to K 3	8. Castles	19. K B to K 2	19. K R to K Kt 4
9. Castles K R	9. P to K B 4	20. K to K B sq	20. Kt to K Kt 5
10. P takes P	10. K R takes P	21. P to K R 4	
11. Q Kt to Q Kt sq	11. P to Q Kt 3		

The following diagram shows the position after the 21st move of White. The reply of Professor Anderssen (one of extreme beauty) was 21. Q to K R 7 and although both Queen and Rook were *en prise* the Hungarian champion could take neither. The

game was prolonged for fifteen moves, and then Herr Szen resigned.

Position in the actual game after the 21st move of White.

BLACK.—Herr ANDERSSEN.



WHITE.—Herr SZEN.

The alternative line of play, which I submit, is also founded upon a sacrifice, and shall now be presented.

White.	Black.
	21. Kt to R 7 ch
22. K to Kt sq (best)	22. R takes P ch
23. K takes R (or A)	23. Q to Kt 5 ch
24. K takes Kt (or B)	24. B to Q 3 ch
25. K to R sq (best)	25. Q to R 6 ch
26. K to Kt sq	26. R to K B 5

White is limited to two defences, viz.—

1. Kt to K 4, and 2. Kt to K B sq.

Because, if—

27. B to K B sq

mate follows in two moves, and if

27. K Kt to R 2, Kt 5, K 5 or Q 4.

checkmate is given next move.

The two more plausible defences shall be dealt with in order.

FIRST DEFENCE. (27 Kt to K 4.)

27. Kt to K 4	27. R takes R P (a)
28. Kt to Kt 3	

If White take the Rook, Black mates in two moves by

28. Q to K R 7 ch followed by
29. Q to K R 8 mate : and if
28. Kt to K R 2, a similar mate results

	28. B takes Kt
29. P takes B	

For if the Rook be taken, Black plays his Q to R 8 mating

	29. Q takes P ch
30. K to B sq	30. R to K R 7
31. Kt takes R	31. Q to K Kt 7

Checkmate.

White having five pieces to two; in other words, being two Rooks and a Knight a-head in vain.

SECOND DEFENCE. (27. Kt to K B sq.)

27. Kt to K B sq	27. R to Kt 5 ch (a)
28. Kt to Kt 3	28. B takes Kt

threatening mate by B to K B 5 dis ch

29. B to K B sq

if P takes B mate obviously follows in two moves.

	29. B to K R 7 dbl. ch
30. K to R sq	30. R to K Kt 8

Mate.

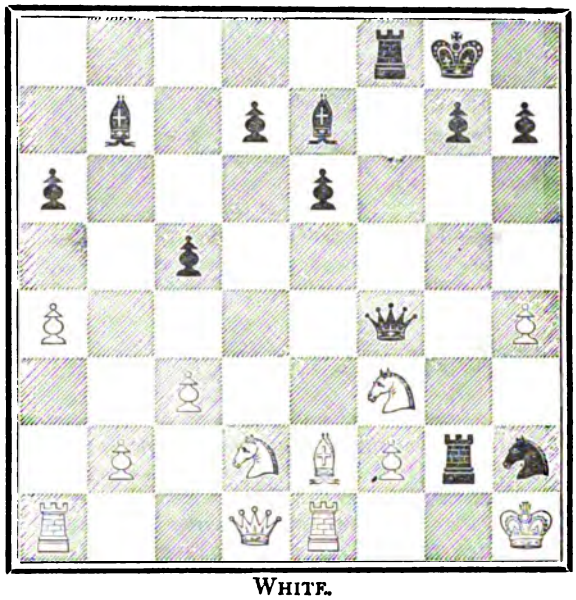
A.

We will now show the consequence if White refuse the Rook at move 23.

23. K to R sq

Diagram of the forces after White has refused the offered Rook. Black to play.

BLACK.



WHITE.

23. Kt takes Kt

I remain, dear Mr. Editor, yours very faithfully,
J. O. HOWARD TAYLOR.

WALPOLE HOUSE, THORPE, NEAR NORWICH.
24th October 1871.

(To be continued next month.)

(a). 27. R to Kt 5 ch, the attack given in the second defence would be equally effectual here, and indeed forces the mate on the 30th move. We presume however that Mr. Taylor's object in this, as in several other variations, is to show the almost infinite resource which the position possesses.—EDITOR.

PROBLEM CONSTRUCTION.

To the Editor of the "WESTMINSTER PAPERS."

SIR,—Allow me to make some observations on a few points connected with the construction of Chess Problems.

Owing to the limited number of squares of the Chess-board, problem composers are often obliged to give up a beautiful idea, or maim it into something very different from its original self, when, were there another square, or another file of squares at command, it could correctly and gracefully be finished. The larger the field to work upon, the fewer useless pieces there would be on the board,—such as cramp, and all but nullify the idea in some of our modern problems. Why then should not composers, when unable to work their idea on the present board, make use of the larger one of 144 squares? True, we have the compositions of all the old and modern masters—compositions which may never be equalled—recorded on the board of 64 squares, but that is no argument against our using a larger board, which would afford us means of rendering our problems more beautiful, and, I believe, less troublesome in the construction.

The introduction of the larger board would, to a great extent, do away with what are called unnatural, impossible positions. Let us, as an example, take Mr. Portilla's problem in your last number (No. 51). The position of this problem is simply an impossibility, and allow me to prove it. White has seven pieces on the board, nine being wanting to complete the set; if I can prove that Black has taken more than nine pieces, the position becomes absurd.

The black pawns crowding the right-hand corner of the board, can only have come there by taking so many pieces as they journeyed along their diagonals. We will make them go back to their original squares in what seems to be the simplest mode. Let the pawn standing on Black Queen's Bishop's file go to Queen's Bishop's 2. We also take for granted that the pawn at Queen's 7 has not changed file, and we remove him to Queen's 2. Then the pawn at King's Bishop's 7 must be the Queen's Rook's pawn, and before it could come where it now is, it must have taken five pieces. Notice that the result is the same if you assign the Queen's Rook's pawn's square to the pawn at Queen's Bishop's 4, and the Queen's Bishop's pawn's square to the pawn in front of the Black King. The pawn at King's Bishop's 5, we assume, is the King's Bishop's pawn. Then the pawn at King's Knight's 7 must be the Queen's Knight's pawn, and took five pieces (5 + 5). It does not matter which of the pawns on the King's Rook's file we send to the King's pawn's square, as any of them must have taken three pieces (5 + 5 + 3). And now let us separate the other two pawns, which will add one to our number: 5 + 5 + 3 + 1 = 14 + 7 pieces on the board = 21 pieces, which, according to the position of the problem, must have been the number of White's pieces at the beginning of the game.

Now that I look over the diagram again, something peculiar strikes me; the result will be the same, in whatever manner you replace the pawns on their original squares, the number of pieces taken being uniformly 14. Let some of your readers see if I am correct.

I have proved the position to be faulty, because the proof seemed to me original and interesting, but I question very much if the author could be arraigned on this head, as he may draw, and properly I believe, a marked distinction between problems and end games, and say that the former have nothing to do with anterior moves. There is no doubt, however, that his idea, which is not very striking, might have been worked out without the encumbrance of so many Black Pawns, and therefore the position of the problem is faulty. Nothing can warrant an unnatural position except a great idea. I give a problem, by Mr. Loyd, which contains a remarkably original idea. The position is very awkward and unlikely, but the genius of the author had rendered it less so had it been in his power. On the larger board Mr. Loyd had improved it perhaps. Those of your readers who are not acquainted with it will find their reward along with its solution.

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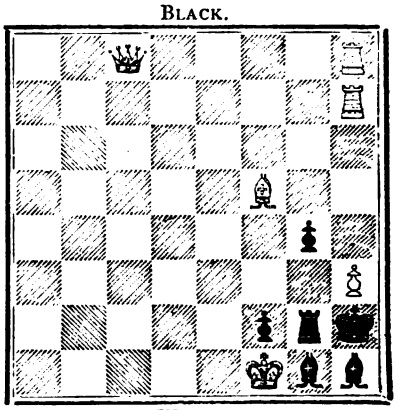

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

And now I want to speak about dummy pawns. I think it is desirable that there should be dummy pawns in the composer's Chess box, and the dummies I mean would not only do duty on the 8th square, but on any square whatever, to indicate that it is neutral ground. Many problems, with that aid, would become much neater by the removal of useless pieces. I appeal to all those whose lot in this world is clearly

to make problems, and do nothing else, whether they have not often upset men and board in great perturbation of spirit because, in a certain problem, after hours of study they failed to fill up a square on which the Black King or some of his forces would slily retire in the nick of time and avoid the threatening mate. The vacant square is first occupied by a White piece, then a Black one; then the conditions of the problem are sensibly altered; you must add more pieces until, whilst you are lost in mute bewilderment over the maze, the pieces have, one and all, visited every square of the board. Dummy pawns used discriminately would, I repeat, make problems simpler and neater.

I noticed your paragraph about accuracy. Many problems, having been composed too hurriedly, are defective in some of the variations. In a good problem the pieces should, as much as possible, be made to play independent parts (of course, all being dependent on the main idea), so that the moving of one piece be not as good as the moving of another in forcing the mate. Example is better than precept; let us take another from Mr. Loyd, the Shakspeare of Chess, out of whose luxuriant garden, as in the case of his poetical prototype, many a humble flower which seemed to have been left uncared-for by the Master, is culled, and by loving and skilful hands often reared into bloom and beauty.

In this position White mates in three moves. Now, notice the accuracy displayed in the four variations. The key-move is Kt to Kt 5.

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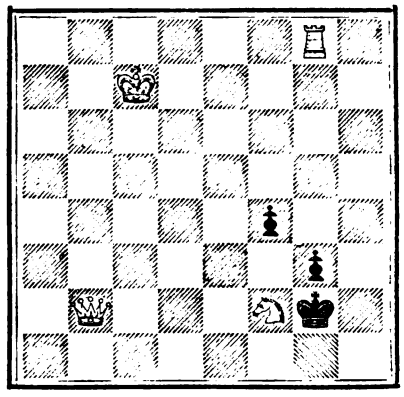

WHITE.

I.

	1. K to R 8
2. Q ch at R 2	2. P takes Q
3. Kt mates	

II.

	1. K to B 6
2. Q to B 2	2. P moves
3. Q mates	

III.

	1. K to R 6
2. K to R 2	2. Anything
3. Q or R mates according to Black's play.	

Notice that after Black's first move in this variation, White could mate in two more moves if he were able to remove his Knight to any other square than Rook's 2, but he cannot; for, if he move his Knight on the diagonal commanded by his Queen, or on the Rook's file he blocks up the action of both, required for the third move.

IV.

	1. K to K B 8 or K 8
2. R to Q R 8	2. Anything.
3. R mates.	

The King, which in the other variations is of no importance, and which at the first glance over the board seems to be *as well there as anywhere else*, is not such a useless piece as it looks. If it were placed on any other file than the Queen's Bishop's, White, in this variation, would have the command of two second moves—Queen's Rook's 8 or Queen's Bishop's 8, which would to a great extent mar the beauty of the problem. The attention of young composers has been directed to this problem, and many others of great excellence, by the learned and clever problematist who secured the first prize in your last Tourney; in truth, it is a beautiful problem.

With regard to your correspondent "F," and the occurrence of the word *mated* in Marlowe, I think the annotator is wrong. He causes *mated* to come from the French verb *mater*, which has the same primary meaning as the English verb to *check-mate*, but which is also used figuratively along with its English equivalent in the sense of to humble, to conquer, *to do*. That is not the meaning I would attribute to *mated* here. It is not unlikely that it is derived from the French adjective *mat*, which is the contrary of *high-coloured*, viz., *white, pale. Un teint mat, a pallid complexion*, and in the text it would seem to mean *pale with fear, horror-stricken*, which explanation seems to be borne out by the last participle:

"How now, my lord, what *mated* and *amazed!*"

I am, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

INVERNESS CHESS CLUB, GEORGES E. BARBIER.

15th November 1871.

PROBLEMS.

No. LXII.—By J. A. W. HUNTER.

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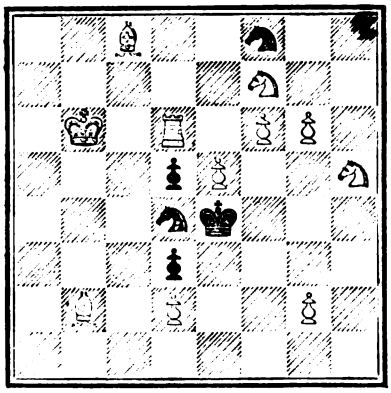

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

No. LXIII.—By J. KLING.

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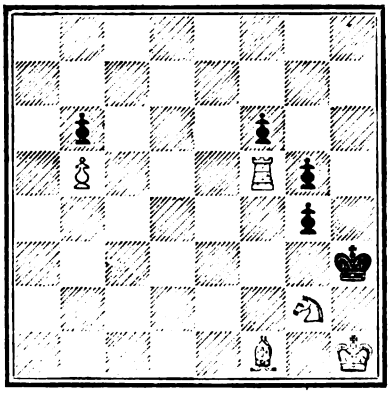

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

No. LXIV.—By W. B. MASON

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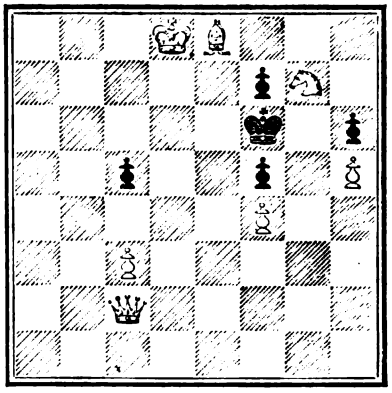

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

No. LXV.—By A. TOWNSEND, Newport.*

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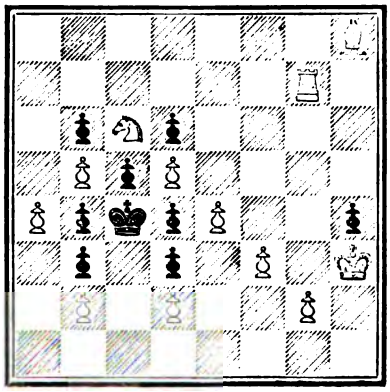

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

No. LXVI.—By E. J. L.

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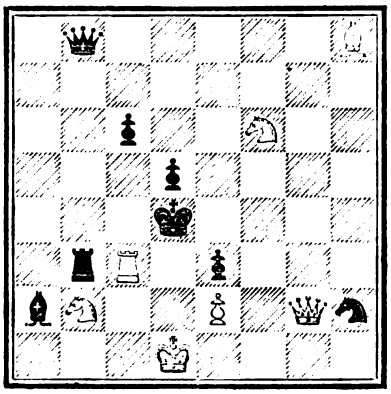

WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

No. LXVII.—By VICTOR GORGIAS.

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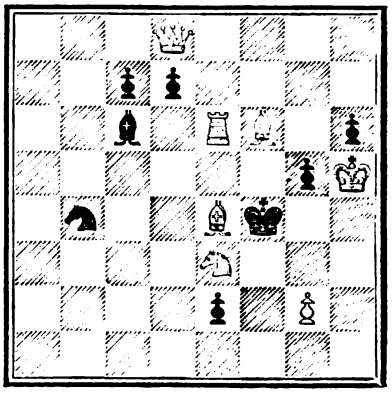

WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

LXVIII.—By A. LULMAN, Melbourne.

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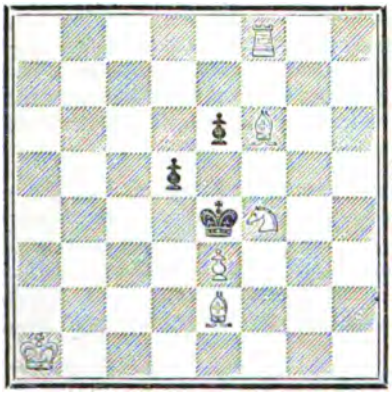

WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

No. LXIX.—By J. A. W. HUNTER.†

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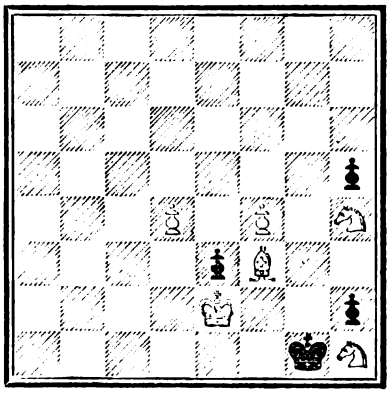
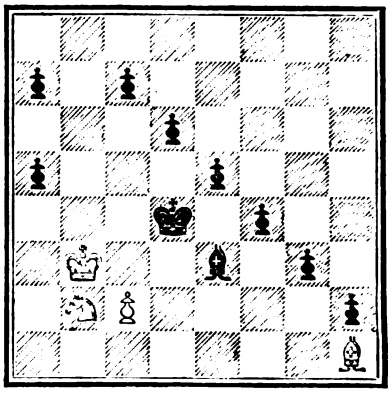


WHITE.

White to play and mate in five moves.

No. LXX.—By B. HORWITZ.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to move and win.

* Pledged Royalty; or, the King in Pawn. "Two to one will keep him there."

† The mate in this position resembles that of a problem which appeared in our last Number, by A. LULMAN, of Melbourne. In justice to Master HUNTER, it should be stated that his problem was in our possession some weeks before we received Mr. LULMAN'S.

The following games were played, at Manchester, by Mr. Blackburne blindfold, and would have appeared last month but for want of space.

GAME XLVII.

White. Mr. J. H. Blackburne.	Black. Mr. Glover.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to Q 4	2 P takes P
3 B to Q B 4	3 B to Q B 4 (a)
4 B takes K B P ch	4 K takes B
5 Q to K R 5 ch	5 P to K Kt 3
6 Q takes B	6 P to Q 3
7 Q takes P	7 Kt to K B 3
8 B to Kt 5	8 Kt to Q B 3
9 Q to K 3 (b)	9 B to K 3 (c)
10 Kt to Q B 3	10 Kt to K 4
11 P to K B 4	11 Kt to B 5
12 Q to K 2	12 Q to K sq
13 Castles	13 R to Q sq
14 P to K B 5	14 P to K R 3
15 B takes Kt	15 K takes B
16 P takes B	Resigns

(a) The adoption of this disastrous reply shows that the second player is not versed in the defence to the Centre Gambit. Sometimes, in positions of this class, White cannot safely take K B P checking, as the second player is enabled to develop his pieces very rapidly. But in this case the Pawn can be captured with impunity. Black's best reply at the third move is 3 Q Kt to B 3. A sortie with the other Knight is also good.

(b) Injudicious; pieces should have been exchanged.

(c) Black fails to take advantage of White's ninth move. By now moving R to K sq and afterwards P to Q 4 the battle can be sustained for a long time. The final moves of the second player are very weak.

GAME XLVIII.

White. Mr. J. H. Blackburne.	Black. Mr. Gazale.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 3
2 P to Q 4	2 P to Q 4
3 Q Kt to Q B 3	3 B to Q Kt 5
4 B to Q 3	4 P to K R 3
5 P to K 5	5 P to Q R 3 (a)
6 Q to K Kt 4	6 K to K B sq
7 Kt to K R 3	7 P to Q B 4 (b)
8 P takes P	8 Q Kt to Q B 3 (c)
9 Castles	9 K B takes P
10 Q to Kt 3	10 B to Q 5
11 R to K sq	11 Q to Q B 2
12 K to R sq (d)	12 K B takes K P
13 Q B to K B 4	13 K B takes B
14 Kt takes B	14 Q to Q sq (e)
15 Q R to Q sq (f)	15 K Kt to B 3
16 B to K 2	16 P to K Kt 4 (g)
17 Kt to K R 5	17 Kt takes Kt
18 B takes Kt	18 P to Q Kt 4
19 Kt to K 4 (h)	19 K R to R 2
20 Q to Q B 3	20 Q B to Q 2
21 Kt to B 6	21 K R to Kt 2
22 Q to Q B 5 ch	22 Q Kt to K 2
23 B to B 3	23 Q R to Q B sq
24 Q to R 3	24 Q B to Q B 3 (i)
25 B to K 4	25 Q to Q B 2
26 B to Q 3	26 P to Q R 4
27 Q to B 5	27 Q R to Q Kt sq
28 R to K 3	28 Q to Q Kt 3
29 Kt to R 7 ch	29 K to K sq
30 Kt to B 6 ch	30 K to B sq

Drawn.

(a) This and the last move are quite unnecessary in the openings of the present class.

(b) So strong is the advance of the Q B P for the second player, and so dangerous is the advance of P to K 5 for the first player, that Black even now gets the upper hand. White's K Kt would be more serviceable to him if posted at K 2.

(c) Better than attempting to win the Q Kt by P to Q 5; an attempt which would not have succeeded.

(d) A mistake apparently; but the position was difficult for White. He, however, gets a fine attack in return for the Pawn.

(e) The Queen must obviously be moved to prevent her loss by Kt takes K P check, and the square adopted appears to be the only safe one.

If—	14 Q to Q Kt 3
15 K Kt takes Q P	15 P takes Kt
16 Q to Q 6 ch	And White wins easily, as the K Kt, when interposed, can be taken off at once.

(f) 15 Kt to K R 5, with the view of sacrificing if the Black K Kt P is advanced one square, looks better.

(g) A hazardous move, which, together with the play of the other Pawn at the eighteenth move, affords opportunity for an irresistible attack.

(h) Here White fails to make the most of his opportunities. By Kt takes Q P and then Q to Q B 3 he wins easily.

(i) Black does his best to redeem his earlier indiscretions. This game is the most interesting of the series.

GAME XLIX.

White. Mr. J. H. Blackburne.	Black. Mr. Robey.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to K B 4	2 P takes P
3 K Kt to K B 3	3 P to K Kt 4
4 B to Q B 4	4 K B to K Kt 2
5 Castles	5 P to Q Kt 4
6 B to Q Kt 3	6 P to K R 3
7 P to Q 4	7 K Kt to K 2 (a)
8 Kt to K 5	8 B takes K Kt
9 P takes B	9 P to Q R 4
10 P to Q R 3	10 Q R to Q R 3
11 Kt to Q B 3	11 Q Kt to B 3
12 Q to R 5 (b)	12 Q Kt takes P
13 Q B takes P	13 Q Kt to K Kt 3
14 B takes K B P ch	14 K to B sq
15 B takes Kt	15 P takes Q B
16 R takes P ch	16 K to Kt 2
17 Q to K 5 ch	17 K to Kt sq (c)
18 B to B 7 ch	18 K to R 2
19 R to Kt 4	19 Q to K B sq
20 R to K B sq	20 P to Q 3
21 Q to Kt 3	21 B takes R
22 Q takes B	22 Q to K Kt 2
23 Q to Q 7	23 Q to K Kt 4
24 Kt to Q 5	24 P to Q B 3
25 Kt takes Kt	25 Q to K 6 ch
26 K to P sq	26 Q R to Q R 2
27 B to Kt 6 ch	Resigns.

(a) P to Q 3, to prevent the White K Kt from playing to K 5 is indispensable in this opening. It is usually played before the equally indispensable move of P to K R 3.

(b) Very good indeed, and so is the sequel.

(c) Immediate mate is the penalty for taking the Bishop.

GAME L.

White. Mr. J. H. Blackburne.	Black. Mr. T. Johnson.
1 P to K 4	1 P to Q B 4
2 P to Q 4	2 P takes P
3 K Kt to K B 3	3 Q Kt to Q B 3
4 Kt takes P	4 Kt takes Kt (a)
5 Q takes Kt	5 P to K 3
6 Q Kt to Q B 3	6 P to Q R 3 (b)
7 Q B to K B 4	7 K Kt to K B 3
8 P to K 5	8 K Kt to Kt sq (c)
9 Kt to K 4	9 P to K B 4
10 B to K Kt 5	10 Q to Q R 4 ch
11 B to Q 2	11 Q to Q B 2
12 Kt to Q 6 ch	12 B takes Kt
13 P takes B	13 Q to Q sq
14 Q takes K Kt P	14 Q to K B 3
15 B to B 3	15 Q takes Q
16 B takes Q	16 Kt to K B 3
17 B takes R	17 K to K B 2
18 B takes Kt	18 K takes B
19 B to K 2	19 Q Kt P to Q Kt 4
20 B to B 3	Resigns.

(a) The Knights should not be exchanged here, because the White Queen is drawn into a commanding position, from which she cannot be expelled.

(b) There is no time for this move.

(c) Black's efforts to place himself in a position from which no earthly aid can save him, are crowned with all the success they deserved. In our wildest dreams we have never conceived a case of suicide so fully accomplished by the eighth move.

GAME LI.

White. Mr. J. H. Blackburne.	Black. Mr. E. H. Wood.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 3
2 P to Q 4	2 P to Q 4
3 Q Kt to Q B 3	3 B to Q Kt 5
4 P takes P	4 P takes P
5 B to Q 3	5 P to K R 3
6 K Kt to K B 3	6 K Kt to K B 3
7 Castles	7 Castles
8 Kt to K 2	8 B to K 3
9 Kt to Kt 3 (a)	9 Q Kt to B 3
10 P to Q B 3	10 B to Q 3
11 Kt to B 5	11 B takes Kt
12 B takes B	12 Q Kt to K 2
13 B to Q B 2	13 Q Kt to K Kt 3
14 B to K 3	14 K Kt to K 5 (b)
15 Kt to Q 2	15 Q to K R 5
16 P to K Kt 3	16 B takes K Kt P
17 B P takes B	17 Kt takes Kt P
18 B to K B 2 (c)	18 Kt to K 7 ch
19 Q takes Kt	19 Q to K Kt 4 ch
20 K to R sq	20 Q R to K sq 8
21 Q to Q 3	21 R to K 3
22 R to K Kt sq	22 Q to K B 3
23 Q R to K B sq	23 K R to K sq
24 B to K Kt 3	24 Q to K 2
25 B to K 5	25 R takes B
	Resigns.

(a) This is a kind of position, not often occurring in the French Opening, where the K Kt may safely be played to K 5, and then the K B P moved up two squares. White's moves at this juncture are somewhat feeble and allow his adversary to attain, at least, an equal game.

(b) Black has now a very good position; his next move completely ruins it, and the reckless sacrifices which follow relieve his adversary of all anxiety.

(c) No doubt, if the first player had been good enough to take the second piece, Black would at least have drawn the game. But the simple play in the text leaves no reasonable alternative to resignation.

GAME LII.

White. Mr. J. H. Blackburne.	Black. Mr. Burnett.
1 P to K 4	1 P to Q B 4
2 P to Q 4	2 P to K 3
3 K Kt to K B 3	3 P to Q 4
4 K P takes Q P	4 K P takes Q P
5 Q Kt to Q B 3	5 B to K 3
6 B to Q Kt 5 ch	6 Q Kt to Q B 3
7 Castles	7 P to K R 3
8 Kt to K 5	8 Q R to Q B sq
9 R to K sq	9 Kt to K B 3 (a)
10 Kt to Kt 6	10 P takes Kt
11 R takes B ch	11 K to B 2
12 R to K sq	12 Q Kt takes Q P
13 B to Q 3	13 B to Q 3
14 Kt takes Q P	14 B takes K R P ch
15 K takes B	15 Q take Kt
16 P to Q B 3	16 Kt to Q B 3
17 Q to B 2	17 Q Kt to K 4
18 B to K 2	18 K R to Q sq
19 B to K B 4	19 Q Kt to Kt 5 ch
20 K to Kt sq	20 Q to K B 4
21 Q to Kt 3 ch	21 K to B sq
22 B to Kt 3	22 K R to Q 2
23 Q R to Q sq	23 Q R to Q sq
24 B to B 3	24 P to K R 4
25 R takes R	25 R takes R
26 R to Q sq	26 R takes R ch
27 Q takes R	27 P to Q Kt 3
28 Q to Q 8 ch	28 K to B 2
29 B to Q sq	29 Q to K 3
30 B to Kt 3	30 P to Q B 5
31 Q to B 7 ch	31 K to K sq
32 Q takes Q B P	32 Q to Q 8 ch
33 Q to B sq	33 Q to Q 7

Drawn.

(a) Better B to Q 3. This Kt was wanted for K 2.

GAME LIII.

White. Mr. J. H. Blackburne.	Black. Mr. Corlett.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 K Kt to K B 3	2 Q Kt to B 3
3 B to Q B 4	3 B to Q B 4
4 P to Q Kt 4	4 K B takes Kt P (a)
5 P to Q B 3	5 K B to Q R 4
6 P to Q 4	6 K P takes Q P
7 Castles	7 P to Q 6
8 P to K 5	8 K B to Q Kt 3 (b)
9 Q takes P	9 P to K R 3
10 Q to Q 5	10 Q to K 2
11 B to Q R 3	11 Q to K 3
12 Q to Q 3	12 Q to K Kt 3
13 Q to K 2	13 K Kt to K 2
14 Q Kt to Q 2	14 Castles
15 Kt to K 4	15 K to R sq
16 Kt to R 4	16 Q to K R 2
17 B to Q 3	17 Q Kt takes K P
18 B takes Kt	18 R to K sq
19 B to Q B 2 (c)	19 R takes B
20 Kt to K B 6	20 Kt to K B 6 ch
21 Q takes Kt	21 Q takes B
22 Q R to Q B sq	22 B takes K B P ch
23 K to R sq	23 Q to K 7
24 Q to K B 5	24 P to K Kt 3
25 Kt takes Kt P ch	25 P takes Kt
26 Q takes Kt P	Resigns.

(a) Amiable opponent. Why make it a book opening, and give the blindfold player all the advantage?

(b) Loss of time, and in the Evans loss of time is loss of game.

(c) Kt to B 6 appears better, but the considerations were too complicated for a blindfold game.

GAME LIV.

White. Mr. J. H. Blackburne.	Black. Mr. Steinthall.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to Q 4	2 P takes P
3 P to Q B 3	3 P to Q 4
4 P to K 5	4 P takes P
5 Kt takes P	5 B to Q Kt 5
6 Q to Q R 4 ch	6 Kt to Q B 3
7 K B to Q Kt 5	7 B takes Kt ch
8 P takes B	8 B to Q 2
9 P to K B 4	9 K Kt to K 2
10 Kt to K B 3	10 Castles
11 Castles	11 P to Q R 3
12 B takes Kt	12 B takes B
13 Q to B 2	13 B to Q 2
14 B to R 3	14 R to K sq
15 Kt to Q 4	15 P to Q Kt 3
16 P to K B 5	16 Kt to Q B 3 (a)
17 Kt takes Kt	17 B takes Kt
18 Q R to K sq	18 B to Q Kt 4
19 R to K B 3	19 P to Q B 4
20 P to B 6	20 P to K Kt 3
21 Q to Q 2	21 R to K 3
22 R to R 3	22 K to R sq
23 Q to R 6	23 Q to K Kt sq
24 Q to Kt 5	24 Q R to K sq
25 R to R 6	25 B to Q B 5
26 B to B sq	26 P to Q 5
27 R to K 4	27 B to Q 4
28 R from K 4 to R 4	28 R takes K P
29 R takes R P ch	29 Q takes R

Black mates in five moves.

(a) Infirm of purpose. His original intention was better.

GAME LV.

White. Mr. J. H. Blackburne.	Black. Mr. Gruber.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 P to K B 4	2 P takes P
3 K Kt to K B 3	3 P to K Kt 4
4 P to K R 4	4 P to K R 5
5 K Kt to K 5	5 P to K R 4
6 B to Q B 4	6 K Kt to R 3
7 P to Q 4	7 P to Q 3
8 Kt to Q 3	8 P to K B 6
9 P takes P	9 K B to K 2
10 B to K 3	10 B takes P ch
11 K to Q 2	11 P takes P
12 Q takes P	12 B to K Kt 5
13 Q to K B sq	13 K B to K Kt 4
14 Kt to Q B 3	14 B takes B ch
15 K takes B	15 Q to K Kt 4 ch
16 Q to K B 4	16 Q takes Q ch
17 Kt takes Q	17 P to Q B 3
18 Q R to K B sq	18 K to K 2
19 K to Q 2	19 K Kt to K Kt sq
20 Q R to K Kt sq	20 K Kt to R 3
21 Kt takes K R P	21 Q Kt to Q 2
22 Kt to K B 4	22 Q Kt to Q Kt 3
23 B to Kt 3	23 B to Q 2
24 R to Kt 7	24 Q R to K B sq
25 P to K 5	25 B to K B 4
26 Q Kt to K 2	26 P takes P
27 P takes P	27 B to K 5
28 R to R 4	28 K to K sq
29 Kt to Kt 3	29 B to Q 4
30 B takes B	30 Kt takes B
31 Kt takes Kt	31 P takes Kt
32 R to Kt 5	32 K R from K R sq to K Kt sq
33 R takes R	Drawn.

SOLUTIONS OF TOURNEY PROBLEMS IN THE SEPTEMBER NUMBER.

No. XXVII.

White.	Black.
1 R takes R ch	1 P takes R
2 Kt to R 4	2 B to Q 4 (or a)
3 B to Q R 7	3 R takes Kt (or b, c, d)
4 Q to Kt 5 mate	
	(a) 2 Kt to Q 5
3 B takes Kt ch	3 K to Q 4
4 B mates	
	(b) 3 R to B 4 or P to K 6
4 Kt to Kt 6 mate	
	(c) 3 B moves
4 Q mates	
	(d) 3 Either Kt moves
B mates	

No. XXVIII.

1 R to K 6	1 K takes R (or a, b, c, d, e)
2 Kt to B 4 ch	2 K to Q 3 or B 2
3 Q mates at Q Kt 6 or K Kt 6, according to Black's [move	
	(a) 1 K to B 5
2 R to B 6 ch	2 K to Q 4
3 Kt to Kt 4 mate	
	(b) 1 R takes R
2 Q to Kt 5 ch	2 Any move
3 Q mates accordingly	
	(c) 1 K to K 5
2 R takes R ch	2 K to B 6
3 Q to Q sq mate	
	(d) 1 R takes either P
2 R takes R ch	2 K to B 3
3 Q to Kt 6 mate	
	(e) 1 R to K 7
2 Q to Kt 5 ch	2 K takes R
3 Q to B 6 mate	

No. XXIX.

1 Q to Q R sq	1 R takes Kt (or a, b, c, d)
2 Q to K R 8	2 R takes B (or e, f)
3 Kt to R 5	3 K to Q 3 (or g)
4 Q to Q 8 mate	
	(a) 1 P to K 4
2 Q to R 4	2 K to K 3 (or i)
3 Q to K 8 ch	3 K moves
4 Q mates	
	(b) 1 R takes Kt P
2 K to Kt 7	2 R to Kt 2 ch
3 Q takes R	3 Any move
4 Q mates	

White.	Black.
	(c) 1 K to B 3
2 Q to K Kt 7	2 K to Kt 4
3 Q to Q Kt 2 ch	3 K to B 3 or R 5
4 Q or Kt mates accordingly	
	(d) 1 R to R 8
2 K to Kt 6, and mates next move	
	(e) 2 K to B 3
3 Kt to K 5 ch	3 K to B 2 (or h)
4 Q to Kt 8 mate	
	(f) 2 P to K 4
3 Q to Q 8 ch	3 K to K 3
4 Q to Q 6 mate	
	(g) 3 K to K 5 or P to B 5
4 Q to K 5 mate	
	(h) 3 K to Q 3 or Q 4
4 Q to Q 8 mate	
	(i) 2 K to Q 5
3 Kt to Kt 2 dis ch	3 K to Q 4
4 Q to Q 7 mate	

No. XXX.

1 B to K 4 ch	1 K takes B (or a)
2 Q to Q B 5	2 Kt at Q 6 takes Q (or b, c)
3 R to Q 5	3 Anything
4 Kt mates	
	(a) 1 K to Kt 5
2 R to K R sq	2 R takes P best
3 Kt to B 6 ch	3 K moves
4 R takes P mate	
	(b) 2 Kt at Kt 2 takes Q
3 Kt to Q 6 ch	3 K moves
4 R takes P mate	
	(c) 2 P to Q 4
3 K to B 6	3 Anything
4 Mates accordingly	

No. XXXI.

1 B to Q R sq	1 P to Kt 4 best
2 Kt to K 8	2 K to K 5
3 Kt to Q 6 ch	3 K moves
4 Q mates accordingly	
	2 P to Kt 5
3 Kt to Q 6	3 P to Kt 6
4 Q mates	
If—	
1 Kt to K 8	1 K to K 5 best
2 B to Kt 7	2 Kt to R 5, and there is no mate in two moves

No. XXXII.

White.	Black.
1 R to R 8	1 K to K B 2
2 Q to B 5 ch	2 K takes Kt
3 Kt mates	
	1 Kt to Kt 3
2 Q to K B 5 ch	2 K takes Q
3 Kt mates	
	1 B or Kt to B 2
2 P to B 5 ch	2 K moves
3 Q mates	
	1 B to Q B 2
2 Kt takes B ch	2 K moves
3 Q mates	
	1 B to Q Kt 3 or R 4
2 Q to B 4 ch	2 K moves
3 Q mates accordingly	
	1 P moves
2 R takes B and mates next move	

No. XXXIII.

1 R to B 5 ch	1 P takes R (a, b)
2 Q takes B at Q R 8 ch	2 K to Q 3
3 Q to K B 6 mate	
	(a) 1 K to Q 3
2 Kt to B 5 ch	2 B takes Kt
3 Q to Q 5 mate	
	(b) 1 K to Q 5
2 Q takes B ch	2 R or Kt takes Q
3 Kt to B 5 mate	

No. XXXIV.

1 B to B 4	1 P to Kt 4 (a)
2 B to K 6	2 Any move
3 B or Kt mates	
	(a) 1 B to Kt 4
2 B takes B	2 Any move
3 B or Kt mates	

No. XXXV.

1 B takes P	1 P takes B
2 R to R 7	2 P to R 5
3 R takes P	3 P takes P
4 R mates	

NOTE.—Problem No. XLII. October number, Black Queen should be Black King.

WHIST.

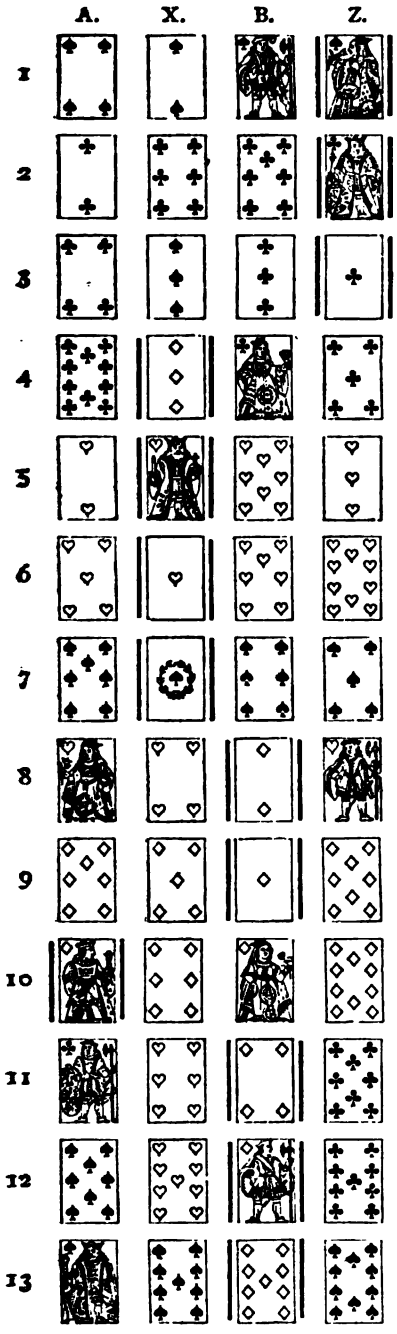
A and B play against X and Z. A leads. The card with the double rim wins, and the card below the rimmed card is the next one led.

HAND No. 112.

Played at University College, Oxford.

Score—Love All.

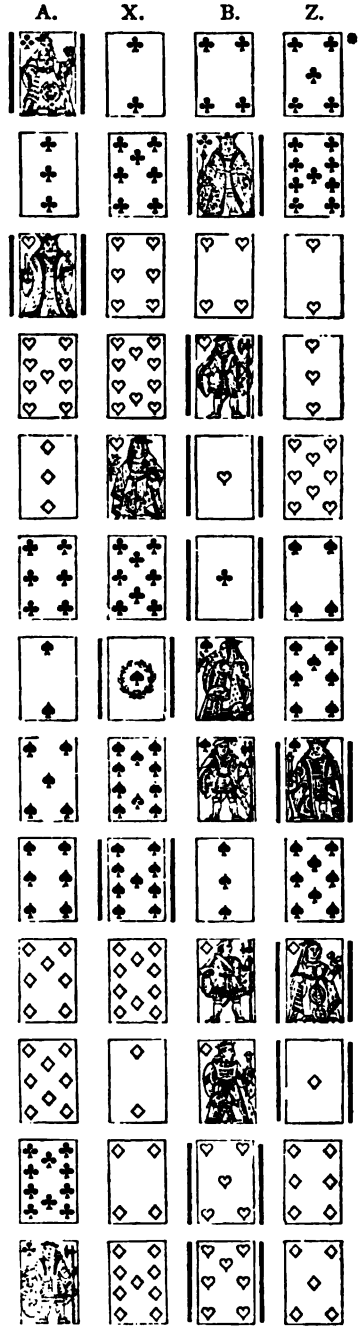
Z turns up Diamond 8.



HAND No. 113.

Score—Love All.

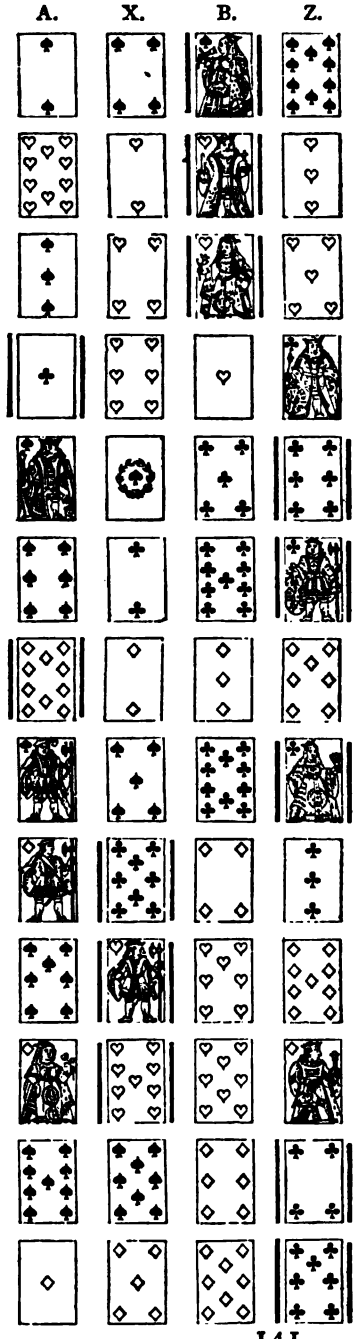
Z turns up Hearts 8.



HAND No. 114.

Played at the Westminster Club, Albemarle Street.

Score—A and B 4. X and Z 1. Z turns up Club Kg.



HAND No. 112.

NOTES.—I send you a hand that was played here. The point of the hand is that the game was missed by the call for trumps. I should be glad of your opinion whether, without the call for trumps, Z would have been justified in forcing his partner to save the game.—W. E. F. *Ans.* In our opinion Z would not have been justified in forcing X except for the call.

HAND No. 113.

NOTES.—This hand is sent us by Emgeen, who favours us with the accompanying criticism of the play. "The only point of interest occurring in this hand is in the first trick, but it carries so much useful knowledge with it, that it is commended to the student of Whist as deserving his particular attention and memory. As a simple illustration of how games are won and lost by players who happening to have a knowledge of Book Whist, consider themselves masters of the game, this hand, almost rudimentary in the principle it conveys, should be of great utility. It occurred in actual play. Both A and B as players would be ranked far above the average of Club Whist. A (known by B never to be erratic in his original leads) starts with Queen of Clubs, in which suit B holds Ace, King, "and another." Can there be any likely combination of cards other than four honours and a long suit of Clubs between A and B? B's plan of the game (apart from his partner's declared power in Clubs) must obviously have been to lead trumps as soon as he came to the lead, in the absence of which he would have called for trumps. Why then does he not play King to his partner's Queen of Clubs, and thus secure the advantage of an immediate lead of trumps, and the far greater one (in which lies the elementary principle) of retaining such a card in his hand that will re-introduce his partner into his originally declared strong suit? The result of B's fault is to score four in place of game—the position is one of frequent recurrence, hence the length of these notes on a hand singularly void of interest, except for the big lesson it teaches."

HAND No. 114.

NOTES.—4. We do not understand why Z plays the turn-up card on the first opportunity. It should be some advantage to let his partner know something about the hand. The modern system of play is we fear out of fashion in Albemarle Street. A false card played occasionally may be an advantage, but to play every card false is not Whist. 8. To trump here is a grave error. It is easy to see B's object, which in itself was commendable. He thought he would make the 10, but he ought to know the style of player against whom he is playing. If he does not do that, he should reflect that his best chance of winning the game was to leave the lead with Z, who must trump and lead the Diamond, in which his partner is safe, or the trump. He must try and prevent the lead getting into X's hands, because of the Heart Kv, which will give Z a discard. 9. Z plays well in leading the trump. The hand exhibits a curious combination of cards. Good play would have won the game for A B against Kg, Q, Kv—seven trumps in one hand.

JOTTINGS.—SITTING UP.

BY sitting up we do not mean keeping the body erect, although, by the way, we may suggest that a habit of stooping at the Whist-table is very injurious to health. We refer rather to that other folly (perhaps the least excusable that man commits), the folly of sitting up all night to play cards. To tell our sons that we have tried sitting up, and found its inconvenience, would induce the obvious retort, "Father, I want to find out the inconvenience too." The youngsters of the present day think far too much of themselves to profit by our experience; they must learn the lesson as we have learnt it, and for our part we would rather see the youngster try the experiment for himself, than see the more mature man, or the old *roués*, sit the long night through. The disease, as it breaks out in the first instance, appears to be an epidemic allied to that of the first season's balls. Why the young ladies and gentlemen take a greater delight in dancing between three and four in the morning than between eleven and twelve, is beyond our comprehension; or why it is impossible to commence dancing before eleven, we do not understand; but so it is, and we must take the world as we find it. Nothing, to our mind, can be more miserable than the appearance of a ball-room, as the cold, grey light enters the windows on a winter's morning, except, perhaps, a card-room under similar conditions. But as the young ladies apparently enjoy the balls—be they ever so numerous—so a certain number of young gentlemen, having started in their career of life, will begin to sit up, and continue to do so until they are middle-aged or old fogies, or perish in the enterprise. In country places, where the rubber can only be occasionally obtained, there is some excuse for this. So in the matter of balls; if they are of uncommon occurrence, we are not prepared to take exception. We have all heard of the man who sat up playing cards until he grew a beard; but except whilst undergoing this disagreeable process (and even then the unhappy mortal would be better in bed) the London players have absolutely no excuse for sitting up. If willing to play for fair stakes, any man can join a Club, where he can have Whist daily from three o'clock in the afternoon until one o'clock in the morning; allow one hour for dinner, and he has nine hours' play. We are not about to write on the nine hours' movement, but it seems strange that the labourers should find nine hours sufficient for a good day's work, and that the middle and higher classes should not find nine hours enough for amusement.

Whist in itself we believe to be an amusement perfectly harmless. As an intellectual game, it has no equal; as a means for gambling, we know of none so little adapted for the purpose. We decline altogether to mix up the harmless and the gambling Whist—the Whist played at a proper and improper hour. Men that abuse Whist never do so on its merits or demerits, but because it leads to something else, *i.e.* to gambling and to sitting up late at night. There is nothing about Whist that requires men to do either one or the other. Whist can be played for the most moderate stakes of any game containing the element chance, and, to our thinking, the game is destroyed the moment the gambling begins. The fact that gambling takes place induces more gamblers to join the party, and it is scarcely necessary to say the longer the men sit up the more

they want to gamble, and if from no other cause but simple weariness, the play gets worse and worse towards morning. The play, which is moderately good at starting, becomes execrably bad by four o'clock; the game is no longer Whist viewed as a game of skill, or indeed as a game at all, because the word game denotes that the players should derive some amusement from it. There is nothing of the sort now. We are cold and uncomfortable, and the gamblers' longing desire of gain is upon us. To get back the money we have lost is our sole but miserable desire. The winners are more cheerful, but long to get away; their minds are more at ease, and they are willing in all charity to give another chance, which the losers generally desire, but even to the winner, it is but a make-believe that he is enjoying himself. The revenge could be obtained just as well the next day, and with far more pleasure to all parties. Then there is the journey home,—a chill bleak winter's morn, a little fog and no cab; the silent tread upstairs, a cold bed, a restless night (if night it can be called), cold feet, symptoms of cramp, absence of sleep, dreams of cards, how we lost that rubber! and worse than all, can our friend afford his loss? The misery caused by that thought is greater than we can express. We have no desire to dramatise the card player's return. The cup is not yet full; the light peeps in through the blinds, the birds chirp; is it possible that one can feel annoyed at their harmless notes? The children begin to run about overhead, we feel a chill at our very bones, we are reluctant to leave our bed, our head aches, tongue parched, the blood fails to glow after our bath, and we come down to a half-finished breakfast, to sit opposite a face that looks as gloomy and miserable as if we were going to be hanged. We go to the office wholly unfitted for the day's work, out of sorts with ourselves and the world at large.

This is the kind of enjoyment that the boy calls "awful fun,"—"did not get home till five," and so on. He laughs, but with him nature is recuperative. From eighteen to twenty-five we can do anything with impunity; not so with you, Mr. Smith, at the age of forty. But our readers may ask, is the writer joking? Is he speaking of imaginary characters? Surely he cannot mean that men can be such asses as this? If so, what sort of men are these? We answer the question in all fairness; the statements are true. We describe facts, and the men who commit these follies are to be found in every Club in town and country. The Whist player may say—yes, but what is the use of writing about it? We know how foolish it is; we know all that the next morning; we always intend that this shall be the last night. To this we reply, we know the task seems hopeless, but we have succeeded in obtaining some reforms by remarks in these pages, and although we hope against hope on this particular subject, we can but fail, and if we never make an attempt, because the task seems difficult, we shall never succeed in anything. It may be, although the feeling is in each man's breast that he is a great fool to sit up, he does not imagine that the other men hold the same views. An united attempt might enable us to overthrow this sitting up curse, after individuals have failed. It is nearly always a single player in a set that uses his strength of will, or persuasive powers, to over-ride the good intentions of his weaker brethren, and all that is necessary is to resist this individual. The strong-minded man will break up the table; the strongest will induces the others to sit up. It is a sign of weakness that men can be persuaded against their better nature to do that which in their hearts they know to be, if not wrong, abominably foolish. Again, it may be said, it is useless to write on a subject when all that can be said has been dinned into our ears by our household goddesses. If they fail, every other advocate must necessarily do so. An individual critic, again, cannot do what the Club Committees have failed to do. It is the earnest desire of every Club to stop sitting up. When play is recognised fines are imposed for playing after a given hour. These fines are sometimes of a moderate amount, and add to the revenue of the Club; at other Clubs they are intended to be prohibitive, but so far as we are aware, although the fine has a deterring effect, it never entirely stops sitting up, no matter how large the amount thereof. We are however less concerned for club play than household play. If Whist be an innocent amusement, as we believe, it follows that our wives should encourage home Whist, and they certainly would do so were it not for this nuisance of sitting up. If men were moderate in this respect, every village in the country would possess a Whist society, where, restrained by the humanising woman element, men would play for less money, smoke and drink less, be more courteous in their conduct, and go home at a reasonable hour. But these kind of Clubs are always broken up because the men sit up so late; the women retire; the households are put out of gear, and future meetings are discouraged.

In speaking of the word gambler, as we frequently do in these pages, we do not mean a man who plays for money. In the eyes of a large number of our fellow-citizens, we are quite aware that to play for money is a heinous offence, but with this we in no way agree. A gambler in our eyes is he who plays for more than he can afford to lose, and whilst one man may play for £50 without doing any wrong, another would commit an offence to play for 50 pence. Our objections to gambling, and our advice to prevent too great a loss, have been so often stated here, that it would be wearisome to repeat the argument, except this: Never play for more money than you have made up your mind that you are willing to lose when you sit down to play, and are free from excitement. If you are willing to take your amusement coupled with the risk of losing 50 points, put your 50 points in your pocket, and when that is gone, stop, and you will never be a gambler. If, when the 50 points have vanished (or before) you increase your stakes, under the belief that the luck must turn, you run the risk of losing more than you can afford, and from that moment you become not only a gambler, but a bad gambler.

THE CLUBS OF LONDON.

NOT because the Westminster Club, in Albemarle Street, is highest in rank do we first refer to it. The Westminster is avowedly a middle-class Club, and is often called the Tradesman's Club, because it was started by and has since always contained a large element of our leading West-end tradesmen. At that time (we speak of nearly forty years ago) to be a tradesman was a heinous social offence. This feeling has not even yet completely died out. There are still snobs that do not judge of men as they are, and who prefer a foolish and uneducated member of the Upper Ten Thousand for a companion to an accomplished man of the world, if that man happen to be connected with trade. But because to be a tradesman forty years ago was a bar to election to a leading Club, no matter how eligible in other respects the proposed member was, the tradesmen took the matter into their own hands, and established a Club of their own. The Club has always been a success. The number of members is limited to 375. If we recollect aright, the former limit was 350, but as the proprietor has recently raised the roof, and enlarged the accommodation of the members, we presume the extra twenty-five members are to be admitted to enable him to get back part of his outlay. There are few men that deserve more encouragement, for of all the Clubs into which we have entered there is none where more attention is paid to the comforts of the guests. The entrance fee is £5 5s, and the subscription £5 5s. The *table d'hote*, price 2s 6d, is the best in London, and any one that dines daily, without the fear of over-feeding and its consequences before his eyes, will save his subscription over and over again. The private dinners also are marvels of cheapness, and the cooking admirable. There are three billiard-rooms now; the play is not of the best. But the card-room is the place with which we have most to deal in these columns. The rules of the Club prescribe 2s 6d points; we think this might be erased with advantage. It is true there are players who indulge in 2s 6d points, and we have seen 3d points played there. The real points are £1, and it would be idle to assert that the rule as to betting is adhered to. We hate shams or make-believes in every form. Whatever is done should be open and above-board. We see no harm in £1 points, provided the men who play for those stakes can afford to lose, and provide for their losses beforehand. The number of players has varied considerably since the Club's commencement. Gambling to a great extent has taken place within its walls, but the old leaven has passed away, and the play generally is more moderate now than formerly. A mushroom may spring up, to fade away in the night, but the members generally are steady, and play according to their means. The players are very uncertain in their style; those that play well are of the Matthews' school; there are two or three followers of J. C.; there are some who profess to follow J. C. but do not; the large majority are of no school. Each plays according to his lights, and every man's hand is against every other man. The chief point they care for is to make small trumps, and the whole hand is destroyed for this end; but it must not be supposed from this description that the play is bad. The players are very wide awake to any ruse attempted against them; simplicity appears to baffle them, and throw them off their guard. The favourite lead is a singleton, or Ace and another. The third player, knowing that the probable lead is from weakness, finesses more deeply than would be good play on the modern system. If trump be led originally, and it is won by the third player with the Queen, and he has King and another left, nothing will induce him to return the lead. The rule as to the return of the highest of two cards left and the lowest of three is entirely disregarded, and it follows from this that the game is exceedingly difficult and complicated at the end of the hand. Indeed, we feel very much like a mariner on a well-known coast after all the lights are extinguished and the buoys removed. The *habitués* of the Whist-room have a very great advantage over strange players, and the fact that the game becomes so difficult, necessarily gives the best players an advantage. As a rule the players are very inattentive to small cards, and they disapprove Blue Peter, and decline to have anything to do with such a disreputable acquaintance. The play takes place in the evening, rather too late. We regret to add, the players to a man are superstitious; they believe in the efficacy of cards and seats more than in anything else. It is a somewhat strange thing that no one takes the trouble to expose this folly, by keeping an account of the number of times the winning cards of the last rubber won in the next. The fine for sitting up after two is 5s, after three 10s, after four 20s,—accumulative. Any member can introduce a friend occasionally, and always if they dine together. This is an exceedingly liberal arrangement, but we have never heard that the liberality has been abused. The cards used are Banck's plain-backed Club cards, pink and white—a small card of the Mogul quality, very good and very convenient. Candles are always used, four to each table, with green shades, and the score is kept until the end of the evening, instead of paying as the play proceeds. If the losers do not pay on the night of play the money must be paid the next day. The counters are like the cards, red and white, and the players are very particular about retaining the counters of the colours of the cards with which they play. When game is scored, the counters are placed under the candlestick.

THROWING UP THE CARDS, AND CLAIMING THE GAME TOO SOON.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—A lesson for those who are sometimes tempted to commit this fault was taught, in the course of a rubber I was engaged in, a few days back.

The score was—double to double, two to one. We were one, and my partner seeing five tricks, and having played two honours, exposed his hand, which contained the second honour and the next best trump, and claimed the game, labouring under the unaccountable, but very common delusion, that if your score is one, and you have two by honours and the trick, you win the game. One and three, however, only make four.

My partner was requested to put his cards on the table, which he did. I was left with two inferior trumps, a Heart and three *(not large)* Clubs. It was my lead. My left hand adversary had Ace and nine of Diamonds, one Heart and three Clubs. My partner, three Clubs to the Queen, a Diamond and two superior Trumps. Right hand adversary, Queen, Knave and nine of Hearts, Ace, King and another Club. He (R.H.A.) won the Heart, which I led, my partner having been called on to discard his Club Queen. He then led Heart Queen, which I passed, and which my left-hand adversary (a first-rate player, who wanted a Diamond to be led to him) thoughtlessly compelled my partner to win, thus giving us the game; if, instead of doing this, my right-hand adversary had undertaken the management (as he ought to have done) he would have called a Club, then led the Knave of Hearts, and made him discard again, his Ace and King of Clubs must have made, and so the game have been saved. It would have been the same had I trumped, because in that case they would have made my partner over trump me, and draw the remaining trump, and whatever was then led would have been won by our opponents. Yours, &c. SLOW AND SURE.

DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM, No. LVII.

By F. H. LEWIS.

A's HAND—S 6, 5, 4; D 10, 7, 2; H 10, 8, 5; C Kg, 5, 4, 3.

X's HAND.—S Kv, 10, 2; D Kv, 6, 5, 4; H 9, 6, 4; C 10, 9, 8.

B's HAND.—S Ace, Q, 9; D Ace, Q, 8; H Ace, Q, 7; C Ace, 7, 6, 2.

Z's HAND.—S Kg, 8, 7, 3; D Kg, 9, 3; H Kg, Kv, 3, 2; C Q, Kv.

Spades Trumps. A to lead, and A and B to make three by cards.

RESULTS OF THE CROQUET SEASON, 1871.

DEVONSHIRE CROQUET CLUB,

Torquay Cricket Ground, 16th May.

Gentlemen.—Mr. E. B. Tawney.
Ladies.—Miss L. Bulteel.

ALL ENGLAND CROQUET CLUB.

SPRING PRIZE MEETING.

Club Ground, Wimbledon, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th May.

Lady Members' Prizes.—Mrs. Walsh beat Mrs. Holmes.
Gentlemen Members' Prizes.—Mr. Willoughby.
Members' Champion Cup.—Mr. Heath.
Handicap Sweep.—Mr Peel (giving 3 bisques and choice) beat Mr. Douglas Heath. Mr. James Heath (giving choice) beat Mr. H. Jones (no time to finish). Mr. Peel and Mr. James Heath divided first and second stakes. Mr. D. Heath and Mr. H. Jones won third and fourth.

GRAND NATIONAL CROQUET CLUB.

10th May and following days.

Contest for the Championship. (Champion 1870, Mr. Law.) In the last round Mr. Law beat Mr. Whitmore.

CHELTENHAM CROQUET CLUB.

5th June and following days.

Ladies Championship.—Miss Bagette.
Gentlemen's Championship.—Mr. Law.
Partnership.—Mr. W. Peel and Miss Peel.

SUSSEX COUNTY *v.* WORTHING.

Six games only played instead of nine. Heavy rain. Four games won by Sussex.

THREESHIRE CROQUET CLUB.

Ferrars, 20th and 21st June.

Ladies Prize.—Mrs. C. Gandy and Miss Porter.
Gentlemen's Prize.—Mr. C. F. Dalton and Mr. Flower. Captain Dalton and Mr. Lynes (a bye). There was no time to finish, but at the adjourned meeting Mr. C. F. Dalton and Mr. Flower won.

WORTHING CROQUET CLUB.

Steyne Gardens, 27th and 28th June.

Mr. Safe and Miss Harris beat Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Safe.

SUSSEX COUNTY CROQUET CLUB.

Brighton, 18th June.

Double Matches.—Mr. H. Soames and Miss Turner.
Ladies.—Miss Blaker.
Gentlemen.—Mr. Soames.

GRAND NATIONAL CROQUET CLUB.

Second Meeting. Aldershot, July.

Partner Prizes.—Mr. Black and Mrs. Holmes.
Ladies Matches.—Miss Holmes.
Gentlemen's Matches.—Mr. Lillie (receiving 1 bisque) beat Mr. Whitmore.

ALL ENGLAND CROQUET CLUB TOURNAMENT.

Wimbledon, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th July.

Ladies Championship.—Mrs. Walsh.

All Comers' Championship Cup of the All England Croquet Club (winner in 1870, Mr. Peel).—Mr. Lillie, the winner in the last round, was defeated by Mr. Peel.

Handicap Sweepstakes.—Mr. James Heath and Mr. Peel divided First and Second. Mr. Douglas Heath and Mr. Jones Third and Fourth.

WEST OF ENGLAND CROQUET CLUB TOURNAMENT.

From the 25th July to 1st August.

Ladies.—Miss A. Morris beat Miss C. Morris. Miss Lee won Third.

Gentlemen.—Mr. H. J. Mackenzie beat Mr. Croker. Rev. J. B. Riky Third.

Partner.—Miss Stephens and Miss Lord.

ALDERSHOT CROQUET CLUB.

Prize Meeting. 2nd August.

First Ladies Prize.—Mrs. Hallowes.
Gentlemen's Prize.—Captain Hallowes.

FOURSHIRE CROQUET CLUB.

3rd August.

Ladies Championship.—Miss Buckworth.

GRAND NATIONAL CROQUET CLUB.

Third Meeting. Moreton, August.

Partners Match.—Captain Farwell and Miss Jordan.
Ladies Match.—Miss M. Lawlinson.
Gentlemen's Match.—Mr. Muntz.

ALL ENGLAND CROQUET CLUB.

21st to 25th August.

Ladies Handicap.—Miss Walter.
Gentlemen's Handicap.—Captain Hallowes.
Partner Prizes.—Mr. Dalton's side beat Mr. Henty's side.
Ladies Break Sweepstakes.—Mrs. Holmes.

WORTHING CROQUET CLUB.

Steyne Gardens, 22nd August and following days.

Partners Prize.—Miss Podmore's side beat Mr. Joad's.
Gentlemen's Prize.—Mr. Metcalf.

GRAND NATIONAL CROQUET CLUB.

Fourth Meeting. 23rd and 24th August.

In association with Edgbaston, Handsworth and Stratford-on-Avon Clubs.

Ladies.—Miss Randell.

Gentlemen's.—Rev. A. Law (giving 1 bisque) beat Rev. R. S. Baker.

CROQUET MEETING AT CORK.

Cricket Ground, 22nd August.

Challenge Cup.—Mr. Evans.
Ladies Prize.—Miss Galway beat Miss Ormsby.
Partners Prize.—Mr. Evans and Miss Ormsby.

HANDSWORTH CROQUET CLUB.

September.

Miss Peel.

WORTHING *v.* SUSSEX COUNTY CLUB.

Steyne Gardens, 9th September.

Worthing victorious. Mr. Henty and Mrs. Joad beat Mr. W. A. Soames and Miss Turner.

WORTHING CROQUET CLUB.

September.

Ladies Handicap. — Miss Wood (reciving 1 bisque) beat Mrs. Joad.

Gentlemen's Handicap.—Mr. E. Henty.

MOFFATT TOURNAMENT.

14th September.

Championship of Scotland.—Mr. Macfie, in the last round, beat Mr. Lillie.

STAFFORDSHIRE CROQUET CLUB.

Handsworth, October.

Ladies Handicap.—Miss Wood beat Mrs. Joad.
Gentlemen's Handicap.—Mr. E. Henley beat Mr. A. Henley.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND CROQUET TOURNAMENT.

Partners Prizes.—Mr. C. Lane and Miss Brander.
Open Handicap.—Miss A. E. Brander beat Mr. H Newton.

FOURSHIRE CROQUET CLUB.

October 11th.

Miss Jordan

DRAMATIC NOTES.

NOVEMBER is usually a dull, gloomy and uneventful month, but has this year completely belied its reputation. One of the characters of Virgil's Eclogues was wont to compare great things with small, and we may follow him by recording that the bustle, the stir, and the discord which at present prevails in political matters has been faithfully reflected in things dramatic. In the larger world of politics new ideas are being promoted, manifestoes are being issued, and Conservatives and Liberals, Constitutionalists, Gladstonites and Dilkites are in a state of quarrelsome excitement. In the smaller world of the drama—if the constituency of the drama

will admit that theirs is a smaller world—the month just closed has been marked by an unusual number of novelties, by strange proclamations and announcements, and, lastly, by actual warfare. Great changes take less time in accomplishment on the stage than in political life, and we are rapidly obtaining a new race of managers, authors and actors. Commercial instincts have been instilled into managers and authors, as we have had already occasion to remark. The first object of the manager is to obtain what he considers to be an attractive play, careless whether it possesses literary merit, unity of construction, or a sound moral. He expends a certain sum of money on scenery and decorations, and secures, in the actors' market, a number of persons sufficient for his purpose, whose engagement will last for the run of this play merely. Having done this, he expects—not without reason—that the public will support him for one, two or three months, according to luck; at all events, sufficiently to bring him in a profit. When the venture is played out, as far as London audiences are concerned, it is sent into the country, with most of the original company, there to be hawked about from town to town till its attractions are over, whilst the manager in London produces a new play, with a new cast, for his metropolitan patrons. The success which this mode of operation has undoubtedly achieved has inspired dramatic authors to enter the lists in opposition, and the advertising columns of the *Era* are filled with announcements from popular authors and adapters, offering the right of acting their productions *on very low terms*. The words we have printed in italics may be seen in the *Era*, and are ample evidence of the trading, not to say huckstering spirit which has entered into the literary profession. With respect to the new school of acting which is being rapidly established, we have hardly space enough at our disposal to go into the matter with the necessary minuteness. The fact is indisputable, but the merits and demerits of the new men require more careful analysis than we are able to give in a short notice. On the whole the change is satisfactory, and the new-comers may be briefly divided into two classes, those who are respectable and clever, and those who are respectable and common-place. Respectability, using the word in its conventional sense, is a quality common to both classes. A swarm of well-educated young men have been let loose on the world in the last few years, who are driving their way, upwards and downwards, into every profession and trade. The sons of Dukes and Earls now become apprentices to wine merchants and tea brokers, and Dukes and Earls themselves dirty their fingers with bubble companies. It is not to be expected that the stage would enjoy an immunity from this raid, and therefore a number of well-looking, well-dressed, well-educated young men are gradually driving out of the field the red-nosed, blue-chinned type of actors, who, when not found inside the various taverns in and around the Strand, were to be seen loitering outside. But it is doubtful whether there is an improvement in ability correspondent with the improvement in the exterior. The system of modern education turns out numbers of young men, who though they have a score of ologies at their fingers' ends, are deficient in sympathy and geniality, and betray an absence of gentleness, or shall we say gentlemanliness. They understand the use of the letter h, and can put on a coat or a pair of gloves with some reference to fit, but they will investigate the character or the anatomy of their fathers and mothers with equal unconcern. This absence of sympathetic feeling, though of no consequence in real life, is felt on the stage, where the dramatic aspirant must at least feign love, grief and despair. As the young man of the day is perfectly ignorant of these qualities, he cannot be able to depict them with any success. Of course to this rule there are many exceptions. Messrs. Hare, Bancroft, Coghlan, Clayton and Montague have attained success, because they have shown themselves able to appreciate the weakness as well as the strength of human character. But the finest specimens of the new school we must hold to be Mr. Henry Irving and Mr. George Rignold. Mr. Irving has been for some years the object of much critical remark, but to the general public he is chiefly known by his performances in the *Two Roses*, in *Pickwick*, and *The Bells*, and by his recitals. His acting in *The Bells* affords a most interesting dramatic study, and nothing finer has been seen for years. Mr. Rignold represents more the quality of force, a quality almost unknown to our young actors. His acting in *The Tempest*, *Hinko*, *Joan of Arc*, *'Twixt Axe and Crown*, and even in the farce of *My Wife's Dentist*, is marked by originality and boldness; and the quiet effect with which he acted in Sir Charles Young's comedy of *Charms* proves him to be possessed of restraint. Mr. Rignold's assurance and breadth of colour are remarkable in so young an actor.

If we have not mentioned the ladies in speaking of the new school, we must plead in defence that they do not call for remark. There has been an enormous influx of female performers on the stage during the last five years, but amongst them all scarcely a single actress. The little children who amuse themselves with charades at Christmas have more notion of acting than the feeble and fleshy dolls who have been forced unto the stage by the expiring mania for burlesque, and are forgotten as soon as the pieces in which they appear. In saying this, we do not forget the early performances of Mrs. Bancroft, the best actress of modern comedy we possess; but Mrs. Bancroft is one in a thousand. Miss Neilson and Miss Robertson are the two names that occur to us first in connection with new actresses. Miss Neilson is pretty and intelligent, and, could she free herself from her accent—which is a mixture of Lancashire and Whitechapel—might become an actress of the first rank. Miss Robertson is of a different type, and, as an actress of high comedy, has no equal at present.

Consistent with these changes in managers, authors, and actors, there has also been a change in the tactics of their critics. As we remarked in a previous number, the last two years has witnessed almost a revolution in dramatic criticism, which, from unlimited gush, has veered somewhat towards the other extreme. This being the case, we must condemn, as being silly, ill-timed, and ill-written, an article in *Temple Bar* for

November, which professed to give a truthful and disparaging account of the present mode of criticism. The writer appears to be one of those hasty persons, of whom there are so many in connection with stage literature, who jump to conclusions without any previous investigation of facts; and having made up his mind to a certain judgment in 1869, gives the world the benefit of his verdict in 1871, regardless of the intervening space of time. The same cause that has sent so many young men on the stage, has flooded the press with specimens of a similar nature. There is scarcely a journal or periodical—daily, weekly, or monthly—which does not contain dramatic criticisms of more or less intelligence, for which no previous training or experience is considered necessary by the writers. The advantage is found in the increased honesty of criticism; and the effect of honest criticism may be seen in the reform which has taken place in certain of the older theatres. The liveliest and most intelligent of modern critics (Almaviva of the *Figaro*) has, by the outspoken nature of his reviews, incurred the wrath of Mr. G. Vining, who proposes to bring against the printer of the *Figaro* an action for libel. The circumstances are peculiar, and little can be said for the wisdom of either side. As our readers are aware, Mr. Wilkie Collins has lately adapted the *Woman in White* for the Olympic theatre, and entrusted the representation of Count Fosco to Mr. Vining. The critics attended as a matter of course, unanimously praised the play and the rest of the actors, but gave contradictory opinions on Mr. Vining's Fosco. This proceeding, which ought to prove the honesty of the critics, if not their intelligence, as showing that each man thought out the matter independently for himself, gave umbrage to the management or the person criticised. Accordingly the management, or the person criticised, inserted the contradictory criticisms in the columns of the daily papers, with an invitation to the public to "enjoy a hearty laugh" over them. In addition was given the "Opinion of the Author," and the "Opinion of Mr. Vining," strongly reminding the reader of the narrative of the register, and the narrative of the tombstone in the *Woman in White*. And now sing, O muse, the wrath of Almaviva at this disrespectful conduct. Dire is his anger, and solemn and fixed is the resolution he comes to,—that neither he nor any of his brother critics will henceforth notice Mr. Vining at all. We humbly submit that this is mere Midsummer madness. The critics have no more right to allow their personal feelings to influence their public duty than the Lord Chief Justice of England; and whenever or wherever Mr. Vining appears, they are bound to give an impartial notice of his performance. At the same time we cannot sympathise with Mr. Vining's determination to take legal proceedings. We fail to see anything libellous in Almaviva's article, though the folly is apparent; and it would be a lamentable thing both for critics and actors if the former were to be restrained from honestly discharging their functions by threats of legal punishment.

The Tempest has been revived at the Queen's Theatre, with an intimation to the public that if it does not support the revival the management will come to the conclusion that Shakspeare is no longer cared for. On the other hand, if the venture is a success, a second Shaksperian revival will be attempted, the particular play to be produced to be decided by ballot. As if to show the comic nature of this proceeding, the play of *Pericles* stands third on the first published state of the poll. We do not imagine that the general representation of *The Tempest* at the Queen's is likely to attract public approval. When the *Midsummer Night's Dream* was acted at the same theatre last year, Messrs. Phelps, Marston, Frank Matthews and others, were engaged to give increased effect to the performance, but, with the exception of Mr. Ryder and Mr. Rignold, no actor of any note appears in the cast of *The Tempest*. If Mr. Ryder wishes to institute a training-school for actors, he would do better to remove it and himself to Clerkenwell or Soho; but if he wishes to attract the public to Long Acre, he must provide it with something better than raw aspirants to dramatic fame or superannuated provincial tragedians. His own performance as Prospero is creditable; that of Mr. Rignold as Caliban clever, novel and forcible; and that of Miss Hodson as Ariel pretty and pleasant. The scenery and mechanism are very good, the "Alfred Thompson" ballet very inappropriate. That is all that can be said of *The Tempest* at the Queen's, and the result is hardly sufficient to entitle the management to lay the blame of failure, should it occur, on the shoulders of the public. At the Gaiety Theatre the expurgated edition of *Love for Love* has not proved successful; but no moan of lament is uttered by the manager, whose industry must command respect if his establishment does not. The collapse simply leaves a little blank in the programme for the next few years which Mr. Hollingshead so kindly issues to the public, a blank which is immediately filled up by the enterprising lessee. As was to be expected, the production of *Love for Love* in an emasculated condition gave rise to many sneers on the part of the critics at the insular prudery which made it necessary to leave out three-fourths of the original dialogue. What do these gentlemen think of the French critics, whom they take as their models, who lately found it necessary to rebuke the license of the author of the *Visite des Noces?* Had that play been produced in England, we should have heard no comments on its indecency, but a great many on the pig-headed nature of the public, had the public refused to approve it. It is not pleasant to notice this affected and foolish policy of our dramatic critics, who imagine that, because they, in their freedom from scruples of any kind, love dirt, everybody else must love it too. We defy any unprejudiced person who may read *Love for Love* as it was written, not to rise from his perusal without a feeling of utter amazement that such a play could have been acted before an assemblage of ladies and gentlemen, except on the supposition that the actors, the audience and the age itself, were entirely dead to the first principles of morality. We do not suppose however that *Love for Love* is more immoral in dialogue than Offenbach's *La Belle Helene* is in purpose. This musical

absurdity, though produced at the Gaiety as a burlesque, becomes in parts almost tragical by the extremely realistic acting of Miss Julia Matthews. Her Helen, though clad in the garb of ancient Greece, might have been taken from English society. Her actions, her expressions, her struggles between pleasure and duty, her reckless throwing off of restraint, burlesqued as they were, represented with painful truth passages in the life of many a little frisky matron of the period. The whole conception was so clever as to warrant the belief that Miss Matthews may achieve a greater reputation as an actress than as a singer; but it has the effect of turning a dull burlesque into a play with a mischievous moral.

The Court Theatre occupies an exceptional and perhaps an unfortunate position amongst London theatres. It is pretty and comfortable, and easy of access; fees are neither asked for nor hinted at; the acting is extremely good, the plays produced of a high class; and yet we presume we are correct in stating that it has not met with the success expected or deserved. Playgoers, to whom this theatre is far nearer in point of time than the establishments in the Strand, unreasonably complain that the Court is out of the way. The result is that the management has to depend to some extent on the patronage of the inhabitants of Chelsea, on whom the fine-drawn sarcasms and repartee of Mr. Gilbert are utterly wasted. The hoarse cries of Messrs. Cowper and Belford, in *Great Expectations*, attracted more visitors last season than the acting of Mr. Vezin in *Randall's Thumb* or *Dr. Davy;* and at the present time it is found necessary to put on the shelf the delicate china of Mr. Gilbert's *On Guard*, and substitute the homely crockery of Mr. Craven's *Coals of Fire.* We cannot say that *On Guard* was a very good specimen of Mr. Gilbert's handiwork. The story lacked substance, and the perpetual warfare of wit and finesse required a quiet library and a snug easy chair for its proper enjoyment. Mr. Craven works with different materials, and he is content to spoil a good situation by exciting the laughter of the gallery. *Coals of Fire* is very much after the pattern of Mr. Craven's previous efforts, with a little similarity to *Doing for the Best*, and as far as the Jormels, father and son, are concerned, to that memorable Adelphi failure, the name of which has escaped our memory, in which Miss Kate Terry finished the play by dying musically over a pianoforte. Had it not been for the title of his play, Mr. Craven might well have wound up the proceedings at the close of the second act; but a third is introduced to exhibit the process of Mr. Craven heaping coals of fire on the heads of his enemies, which we are bound to say he performs in the most liberal manner. We should be sorry to be Mr. Craven's enemy; for though we might be able to stomach his generosity, we should collapse under his jokes, which completely neutralise the obligation. But let us thank Mr. Craven that this play, like others from the same pen, has a sound and healthy moral, and it is moreover well represented in every character. Miss Brennan and Miss Oliver work with a zeal and energy that is quite refreshing. Messrs. Righton and Belford are equally amusing, and Mr. Clayton's small piece of pathos in the last act is so good that it seems a pity to cut it short by a market-gardening joke which can well be spared. As we have said, the Court deserves success, and on this account we are the more sorry that the management deem it necessary to produce a burlesque of the modern order. We have not forgotten the opening night of the Court, nor the applause which greeted Mrs. Hermann Vezin's delivery of the address, which announced that this theatre would not be as other theatres, and would scorn the vulgar arts of burlesque. Necessity has no law, and thus it is we suppose that the robust charms of Mdlle. d'Anka are called in to revolutionise the Court programme.

Much activity has prevailed at all the theatres. For his benefit Mr. Buckstone revived the *Busybody* at the Haymarket, and at the Strand Mr. J. S. Clarke continues to give his very comical representations of Dr. Pangloss and Toodles. M. Raphael Felix holds possession of the St. James's, with a well-selected French company. A version of *Edwin Drood* has been given at the Surrey. The dramatic study of MM. Erckmann-Chatrian, entitled *Le Juif Polonais*, has been adapted at two theatres. Mr. Burnand's version, at the Royal Alfred Theatre, which he calls *Paul Zegers*, transfers the scene from Alsace to Cornwall, and elaborates the simple story of the original play. In this version Mr. Harcourt, the energetic lessee of the theatre, plays the hero, in a manner that will advance his reputation. At the Lyceum Theatre, Mr. Leopold Lewis has adapted the story, under the title of *The Bells*, in a more simple and more skilful fashion. The play is not one that appeals to popular interest. There are no characters on whom the audience can expend their sympathies, for the daughter of the Burgomaster, the hero of the piece, and her lover are mere sketches. Added to this, the representation of dreams on the stage is never quite intelligible to the mass. And yet for the space of about twenty minutes a single actor kept the house spell-bound on the first night by his magnificent representation of a man who dreams he is being tried for a murder, which he is made to confess by the aid of mesmerism. The play is not a play in the ordinary sense of the word; it is, as the authors style it, a dramatic study. The first and second acts might be omitted, and the third act produced alone, as a dramatic sketch. Anything finer as an intellectual display of art than the performance of Mr. Irving we have never witnessed. He has certain difficulties to contend with; his voice is occasionally weak and unmanageable, and the physical labour involved, when in the mesmeric trance he repeats the operation of the murder, is by no means slight. And yet, as we have said, for a quarter of an hour there was a silence in the Lyceum theatre so marked that the presence of persons afflicted with colds became painfully apparent, and the rustle of a play bill was a positive nuisance. This is the highest tribute an audience can pay to an actor, and is worth any amount of ready hand-clapping. Nor was it in this case undeserved. Had Mr. Irving failed in his attempt, the effort would have

been praiseworthy as a courageous endeavour to interpret a profoundly intellectual dramatic study. But Mr. Irving achieved a great success, which will confer honour on himself and his profession. The stage management was remarkably effective, and a word of praise must be given to Mr. Gaston Murray, whose name was not in the programme, for the impressive manner in which he represented the judge in the dream trial scene.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CHESS.

"THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS" PROBLEM TOURNEY.—Problems received. 1. *Con amore.* 2. *Muchas gracias!*

E. J. L.—A very fine conception, but it occurs to us that White can begin by Q to Kt 5. Please look to this.

J. A. W. H. (Edinburgh).—Poem received, and under consideration. Second letter also. Have you received the Canadian paper we forwarded to your address a few days ago?

G. DYSON.—Your letter has been forwarded to the judges.

J. B. WILSON (Clay Cross.)—We had plenty of games, but they were "crowded out." Nevertheless we are obliged to you for the capital *partie* you have sent to us.

V. N. PORTILLA (Mexico.)—We did not know that the second problem of the set, "Nec timeo, &c." had already been printed in another publication, but the fact of the third having so appeared was known to the judges from the first. There was a second solution to No. 3 of your set, commencing Kt to R 4 ch, &c. No. 2 was generally considered a very fine problem.

J. LOWENTHAL.—Accept our best thanks for the excellent game with which you have favoured us.

W. H. (Truro).—Accept our best thanks for your very amusing communication. On the other matters we will address you through the post in the course of the week.

A. L. (Melbourne).—We are pleased to be assured that the *Westminster Papers* are so popular in your Colony, and note that the members of the Adelaide Club have resolved to enrol themselves among our subscribers. For the information of our readers we give the correction of your problem which appeared in our July number. "The Black Bishop to be placed on his K B 2, and a Black Pawn to be placed on Q R 4." We are much obliged for your contributions and good wishes.

R. F. (Stirling).—The man who believes that a penny publication devoted to Chess would be remunerative is unworthy of the name of—Scotchman.

W. B. M. (Inverness.)—Thanks for your letter and the problems. No. 1 is soluble by 1. R to Q 8 ch. 2. Q to Q Kt 3, and mate follows next move. We hope to hear from you again.

G. E. B.—Letter received. You will observe that we have adopted your suggestion.

E. T.—We are much obliged for the account of the Bristol Meeting. The remaining points of your letter are referred to in another part of this number.

A. HILL; J. W. A.; S. K.; J. C.; A MEMBER OF THE CITY OF LONDON CHESS CLUB.—Your letters have been forwarded to the judges.

G. B. F. (Dundee.)—Always glad to hear from you. The analysis will be welcome, but of course we shall be happy to wait your convenience. Let him say so. We know he does not think so, hence his bile.

"Wrapt in our virtue and a good surtout,"
we are still . . . . . *Gay.*

J. W. A.—The little gem is still imperfect, *e.g.*, 1. P to B 6. 2. P to B 7. 3. Q to B 6 mate. We are sorry to think that a very complex alteration will be necessary to correct it. The other position is "sound as a bell."

WHIST.

OLD FILE.—We are not out of any back numbers, all having been reprinted. Send 7d in stamps, and any single number will be sent by post.

NEW CARDS, WESTMINSTER CLUB.—It is not the player that calls for new cards that has the choice of the two packs. The dealer has the choice.

B.—A leads out of turn. B, his partner, is called upon to lead a Spade. He leads a Club. A asks B, "Have you no Spade, partner?" Adversaries object. Has A the right to ask the question or not?—*Ans.* A can ask the question to save B making a revoke.

W. P.—Leader's hand, Clubs (trumps), Qn, Kv, 9, 6; Spades 10, 9, 6, 4; Hearts 8, 6, 2; Diamonds 7, 4. Score—Love all. Clubs 4 turned up. *Query.* What should be the lead.—*Ans.* In our opinion the proper lead is the Spade 4, *i.e.*, the smallest card of the long plain suit. This lead does the least harm, and is in accordance with principle. There is no use in playing for anything but safety.

B and S are partners, B leads out the four last cards, one after the other, without waiting for the other players to play. The cards are the four best Hearts. Can S be called upon to trump his partner's trick?—*Ans.* The proper course for the adversaries to pursue is to call upon S to win the trick. In the case before us we conceive telling S to trump is within the law. We believe Cavendish previously so decided.

Z.—If having A, Q of trumps only, and your adversary turns up the King, it is quite true that by leading the Q you are very likely to get rid of the King. We did not know that this was an important point at Whist, but we learn something fresh every day. In the case stated your object is easily attained. The idea seems to us simple and original. Whist has become such an A B C game that we are quite pleased to find a man thinking for himself; you remind us of a jolly old lady, who thought it was so much nicer to have small trumps than large ones, because the little ones made so many more tricks!

Q.—Having A, Kg, Q, and two other trumps, and the Kg of D, the King card only of your partner's suit, six cards in, you certainly follow a rule if you lead out the King of D to clear your partner's suit, but in the long run, good as the rule is, we doubt if it would answer to play thus with this particular combination of cards; circumstances alter cases, and we do not quite see the advantage of clearing a suit when you must trump your partner's next card, if he ever again gets the lead. Perhaps you have forgotten the old question, if you had twelve trumps, and another, and your blood was up, what would you lead?

A. C., Beverley, F. B., Belfast, F. H. L., London, S. P. (Athenæum), F. (Balliol Coll.), A.P.B. (Westminster).—We are very much obliged for the Whist hands, all of which shall appear in due course.

PIQUET.

W. R. & C.—C, elder hand is 37; R, younger hand, 99. C, by his hand and play, makes 63 and plays again. B wins the trick and calls game. Before the money is paid or the cards are cut for the next deal, a bystander reminds C that 37 and 63 make the game. Who wins?—*Ans.* C is in time, and he has a right to the game. (2) Assume the same facts, but the cards are cut for the next deal?—*Ans.* We think C too late to make the claim, and that R is entitled to the stakes.

The Westminster Papers.

1st JANUARY 1872.

THE CHESS WORLD.

"The whisperings of our petty burgh."

THE recent contest for the "Skipworth Cup," and the remarks on that match which appeared in our last, are referred to in another part of this number. We may point out here, however, as we have learnt it from our correspondent's letter, that the Counties' Chess Association have nothing to do with the so-called Champion Cup, and consequently their rule referring to the distribution of the Games among the Chess periodicals does not apply in this case, but we find that the rule concerning playing the games within the precincts of the parish of the holder does apply, and has *not* been observed. Until we received Mr. Watkinson's letter, we believed the match to be a public one, and fairly open to public comment; misled in that respect by the flourish of trumpets in the *Field*, and the "re-percussive roar" of *Land and Water;* but as the matter stands the whole thing is ridiculous, and we have only to express a hope that there really is a "cup" in existence after all. Once assured of that, we believe that earth would then

"Spin on, fresh balanced—to a hair,"

and the match for the "Skipworth Cup," would serve only to suggest a seasonable paraphrase of the "House that Jack built."*

One of the most comprehensive works on the subject of Chess which has ever been issued from the press is now in course of preparation by Dr. A. Van Linde, a well-known Dutch Chess Player, and author of many standard theological works and treatises on Typography. The plan of the work embraces a literary history of the game, and a history of Chess Theory; and the first volume, which is nearly completed, is divided into two sections, the first being devoted to the *Schaturanga*, or ancient Indian game, and the second to the perfected game of the present time. A complete Bibliography of Chess will be an important feature of the second volume, and our readers may form some idea of the research expended upon this part of the work when we inform them that the article *Cæssolis* alone consists of upwards of two hundred items. In the *Bibliography* we scarcely hope that proper justice will be done to Mr. George Walker's labours in unearthing the valuable collection of Chess books and MSS. in the British Museum; labours undertaken in the days of imperfect catalogues, and when only enduring patience, sustained by individual enthusiasm, could have accomplished anything in Bibliographical research. Dr. Linde is assisted by Mr. G. B. Fraser, of Dundee, to whom is also entrusted the responsible task of preparing the work for the use of English readers.

The Handicap Tourney of the Melbourne Chess Club, conducted throughout in harmony, has been brought to a conclusion in a chorus of sweet sounds from our Colonial contemporaries. As we anticipated in our last number, the first prize has fallen to Mr. Goldsmith; and Messrs. Sedgefield and Coates take the second and third prizes respectively. All three prize-holders were in the second class, and received the odds of Pawn and move from Mr. Burns, who stood alone in the first. The Tournament was conducted upon a

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* Please, I think this is what he means:—

This is the Cup that Jack won.
These are the players, who entered the lists, to contest for the Cup that Jack won.
These are the rules, made for the players, who entered the lists, to contest for the Cup that Jack won.
This is the man, with the bugle-horn, who broke the rules, made for the players, who entered the lists, to contest for the Cup that Jack won.
These are the newspapers, tattered and torn, that printed a couple of games forlorn, sent by the man with the bugle-horn, who broke the rules, made for the players, who entered the lists, to contest for the Cup that Jack won.
This is the public, shaven and shorn, reading the newspapers, tattered and torn, &c., &c., &c.

PRINTER'S D——L.

novel scheme, propounded by Mr. Stephen, and we are reminded of a promise made some months ago to bring the plan under the notice of our readers. We shall endeavour to redeem our promise next month, and we shall include in our notice some remarks upon the scheme of Mr. Stephens furnished to us by one of the leading players in Australia. In the meantime we are sure the appended game, played in the Tourney, and notes from the *Leader*, will prove interesting to our readers.

The Sydney Club may be said to have a "good time" before it. In addition to the Club Tourney, arrangements have been made for telegraph matches with Queensland and Victoria.

The Tournament of the Moonta Mines Chess Club is drawing to a conclusion, and the name of Mr. H. Fuss, a problem composer of merit, appears at the top of the score list.

The *Dubuque Chess Journal* continues its series of portraits of eminent Chess players, and the November number contains a photograph of Mr. G. E. Carpenter, whose problems are as warmly appreciated on this side of the Atlantic as on his own. The series of articles, by this gentleman, now appearing in the *Dubuque Chess Journal*, on the principles of problem construction, deserve the attention of every problem composer; and we recommend all those interested in the subject to order copies at once. The annual subscription is three dollars, and may be remitted in English postage stamps to A. Brownson, jun., Box 2157, Post Office, Dubuque, Iowa, U.S.

The New York papers announce the arrival of Mr. Pindar (late of Manchester) in that city, and that he has contested several games with Mackenzie, but with what result is not stated.

The Central German Chess Association opened its first Congress at Leipsic, on the 27th ult., and it is anticipated that this will be the most successful meeting of Chess-players ever held in Germany. The competitors in the Grand Tourney will include the names of Anderssen, L. Paulsen, Neumann and Mincwitz. There will be a Problem Solution Tourney, and one for the Blindfold players, but we do not observe that Problem Composers have been considered in the arrangements at all.

On the 16th ult., the population of our "petty burgh" bowed down at "laughter's shrine," moved thereto by the circumstance that the problems in the *Illustrated London News*, *Land and Water*, and *Field* of that date were all of them wrong. Perhaps *Land and Water* caused the most fun by reason of the problem therein having a very complimentary notice prefixed to it, and we should think the unlucky composer of the problem in question must have envied the shield of anonymity which guarded his fellow blunderer in the *Field*, who, like the Duke in *Measure for Measure*, may exclaim (with an accompanying and self-satisfactory chuckle) :—

> "I love the people,
> But do not like to stage me to their eyes:
> Though it do well, I do not relish well
> Their loud applause, and aves vehement;
> Nor do I think the man of safe discretion,
> That does affect it."

We believe there can be no question about the necessity for "discretion" in the case of an inaccurate problem; but even for the safety to be found in the anonymous we should not wish our productions to appear like unlabelled phials in a chemist's shop. Anonymous productions always remind us of an advertisement in a Dublin paper, concerning a lost pocket book, which wound up with the usual formula, slightly altered: "As it is of *no use* to any one, whoever will bring it to ——— will be *suitably* rewarded."

(Remove Black's K B P)

WHITE. (Mr. Sedgefield.)	BLACK. (Mr. Burns.)
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 3
2. P to Q 4	2. P to Q 4
3. P to K 5	3. P to Q B 4
4. P to Q B 3	4. Q Kt to B 3
5. B to Q 3	5. P to K Kt 3
6. Kt to K B 3	6. Q to Kt 3
7. Castles	7. B to Q 2
8. P to Q Kt 3	8. P takes P
9. P takes P	9. Castles
10. B to K 3	10. Kt to R 3
11. Kt to B 3	11. Kt to B 4
12. Kt to R 4	12. Q to B 2
13. Q R to B sq	13. Kt takes B
14. P takes Kt	14. K to Kt sq
15. Kt to B 5	15. B to R 3
16. Q to K 2	16. Q to Kt 3
17. P to Q Kt 4 (a)	17. B to Q B sq
18. R to Q Kt sq (b)	18. Q R to K Kt sq
19. Kt to Q 2	19. Kt to K 2
20. R to B 7	20. Q to Q sq (c)
21. P to K 4	21. P takes P
22. K Kt takes P (d)	22. Q takes P ch
23. K to R sq	23. Kt to B 3 (e)
24. Kt to Q 6	24. Kt takes K P
25. Kt takes B (f)	25. Kt takes R
26. Q to B 3	26. Kt to Q sq (g)
27. R to Q sq	27. R to B sq
28. Q to R 3	28. B to Kt 2
29. R to Q B sq (h)	29. R to B 5 (i)
30. Kt to K 7 (j)	30. P to Q R 4 (k)
31. P takes P	31. K R to B sq
32. P to K Kt 3	32. R to B 7
33. Kt takes K P	33. Q takes B (l)
34. Kt takes R	34. Q to B 6 ch
35. K to Kt sq	35. B to Q 5 (m)
36. Kt to Q 7 ch	36. K to R sq
37. Kt to Kt 6 ch	37. K to R 2

White resigns.

(a) White has now a fine attacking game.

(b) P to Kt 5 seems stronger.

(c) Threatening Kt to B 4, followed by Q to K sq.

(d) White, by this, gets his two Knights into very effective co-operation.

(e) This is better than Kt to Q 4

(f) He should rather have played Kt to Kt 5, in which case we doubt whether Black could have defended his game, e.g. :—

25. Kt to Kt 5	25. Q to K 6 (best)
26. Q to Q B 2	26. If Kt takes R
27. Kt to R 6 ch	27. P takes Kt
28. Q to B 7 ch	28. K to R sq
29. B to K 4 ch and wins.	

(g) From this point the game is full of interest, and very critical for both players.

(h) He could not, of course, discover his Rook or Queen, as Black would simply have taken it, and mated next move.

(i) R to B 2, to prevent White playing Kt to K 7, would have been safer.

(j) A very strong move, giving rise to a variety of beautiful variations.

(k) We doubt whether any other move would have won; had he moved this Pawn to R 3, White would have taken it with Bishop, and then brought his Queen to Q R 3, with a winning game.

(l) The correct move.

(m) This wins, play as White will: the termination is very neat.

The annual match between the Clubs of Liverpool and Manchester resulted in a victory for the "Liverpudlians," who scored four games over the "Manchester men," who scored only one. The unit must be credited to Mr. Werner, who, as on the occasion of the last meeting, opposed Mr. Burn, the strongest of the Liverpool team, and again successfully.

The City and County of Dublin Chess Club has removed from Grafton Street to Great Brunswick Street, a change which an informant remarks, is

"Advantageous in respect of accommodation; if not of locality. Sir John Blunden is the President, and Coote Carrol, Esq., the Vice-President for the current year. Though the steady practice continues uninterruptedly, yet no match of importance has for some time past come off, and this and other symptoms of stagnation may be fairly attributed to the affairs of the church and the country, which completely engross the attention of most of the influential Chess players in Ireland."

Poor Erin, even your Chess is affected by the freaks of your politicians. We should not like to be the person to introduce politics to Gatti's or the Divan.

The *Echo Americano*, and the *Gentleman's Journal* maintain the reputation of Mr. H. Meyer, the Chess Editor of both publications, for careful supervision and laborious analysis.

The City of London Handicap Tournament is proceeding in a satisfactory manner. There are forty-eight entries, and five classes. The first gives P and move to second, P and two to third, Kt to fourth, R to fifth; the second class gives P and move to third, P and two to fourth, Kt to fifth; the third class gives P and move to fourth, P and two to fifth; the fourth class gives P and move to fifth. The first winner of two games to win the round. In the first round Watts beat Mellor, Gamman beat Blunt, Potter beat Baxter, Chappell beat Percival, Gossip beat Henderson, S. Swyer beat Coombe, Clark beat Hoon, Mayow beat Vyse, Cole beat Godfrey, Thomson beat Whomes, Humphreys beat McLeod, Frankenstein beat G. Watts, Pannell beat Hooper, Keates beat Manning, Steinitz beat Lawson, Pizzi beat Nash, Down beat Lappert, Argall beat J. Swyer, Sothers beat Shedlock, De Vere beat Marks, Mundell beat Mellison, Knight and Lord a draw, Watson and Fenton a draw, Parr and Ormsby a draw. In the second round Steinitz won one of S. Swyer, Gamman and Clark game and game, Frankenstein and Chappell ditto, Thompson won one of Argall, Percival beat McLeod, Marks beat Vyse, Mellor and J. Swyer game and game. We are particularly pleased to notice the success of Mr. Chappell, because we hail it as an indication of his restoration to health. Mr. Chappell's term of office as Hon. Sec. of this Club was distinguished by the most impartial courtesy to the Chess Journals.

The Western Chess Congress, United States, met on the 4th ult. and play commenced on the 5th. Our latest intelligence gives the score—Mackenzie won 14, lost 2; Hosmer and Max Judd won 10, lost 4; Smith and Elder won 9, lost 5; Ware won 8, lost 7: Mackenzie therefore wins the first prize. We give below one of the games from the *Spirit of the Times*.

WHITE. (Mr. Smith.)	BLACK. (Mr. Mackenzie.)	WHITE. (Mr. Smith.)	BLACK. (Mr. Mackenzie.)
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	11. Q to K R 5	11. B to K B sq
2. Kt to K B 3	2. Kt to Q B 3	12. Kt to Q B 3	12. B to R 3
3. B to Kt 5	3. Kt to K B 3	13. R to B 3	13. R to K 8 ch
4. Castles	4. Kt takes K P	14. K to B 2	14. Q to K sq
5. P to Q 4	5. Kt to Q 3	15. R to K R 3	15. R to B 8 ch
6. B takes Kt	6. Kt P takes B	16. K to Kt 3	16. Kt takes B P ch
7. Kt takes K P	7. B to K 2	17. K to Kt 4	17. Q takes Kt ch
8. P to K B 4	8. Castles	18. Q takes Q	18. P takes Q
9. P to B 5	9. P to B 3	19. P to Q Kt 3	19. B to Q 3
10. Kt to Kt 6	10. R to K sq	20. Kt to K 4	20. B to K 7 ch & wins

ANDERSSEN *v.* SZÉN.

[*Continued from our last Number.*]

WHITE has now but three available resources, viz.:—

1. Kt to K B sq 2. K takes R
3. Kt takes Kt

As to the first—

24. Kt to K B sq 24. Q to K R 7 ch
25. Kt takes Q 25. R takes Kt
Mate.

As to the second—

24. K takes R 24. Kt takes P dbl. ch
25. K to R 3 25. B to Kt 7 Mate.

So strong is Black's position that he can mate in two other ways in the same number of *coups*.

As to the third—

24. Kt takes Kt 24. R takes K B P
25. Q to Q 6

If—

25. K to Kt sq	25. Q to Kt 6 ch
26. K to R sq	26. R to R 7

Mate.

If 25 Q to Q 5, Black can simply take off Q.

Black can also reply to White's move 24. Kt takes Kt, with 24. R to K Kt 3, and so powerful is Black's attack that if White answer Q to Q 4, Black can disdain to capture the enemy's Queen and make a present of his own, with a view to the following quaint and Quixotic variation:

For example—

24. Kt takes Kt	24. R to K Kt 3
25. Q to Q 4	25. Q takes Kt ch
26. B takes Q	26. R takes B
27. K to R 2	27. B to Q 3 ch
28. Q takes B	28. R takes K B P ch
29. K to R 3	29. B to Kt 7 ch
30. K to R 2	30. B to K 5 dis ch
31. K to R 3	31. B to B 4

Mate.

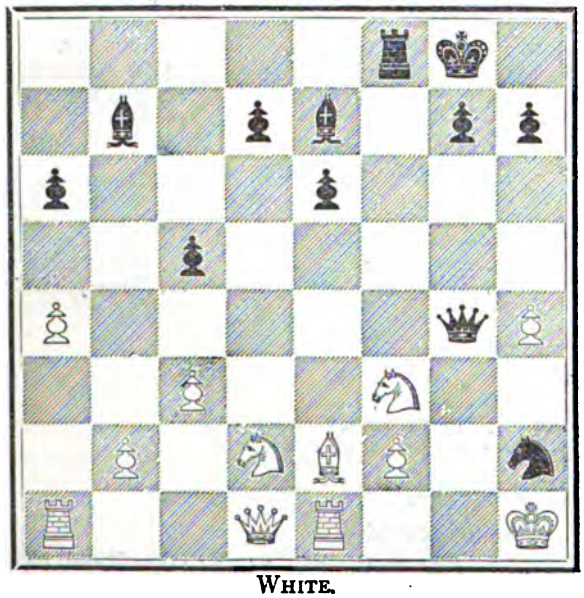
B.

Returning to our original theme, let us examine the result if White's refuse the Knight after accepting the Rook.

24. K to R sq

Situation after White has accepted the Rook but declined the Knight. Black to play.

BLACK.



WHITE.

24. Q to R 6

White has now only three modes of avoiding instant discovered mate, viz.—

25. (*x*) Kt to K B sq. (*y*) B to K B sq. (*z*) K to Kt sq

Of these—

(*x*) 25. Kt to K B sq

is clearly bad, for Black in answer thereto captures the Kt on K B 3 dis ch, and mates next move.

But (*y*) 25. B to K B sq issues in some charming variations, *e.g.*—

25. B to K B sq	25. Kt takes B dis ch
26. K to Kt sq	26. Kt takes Kt
27. R to K 3	

For if 27. Q takes Kt, mate follows in two moves, and if 27. Kt takes Kt on the move

27. R takes Kt

28. Q takes Kt*

If 28. R takes R, or Q takes R, Black mates in two moves.

	28. Q to R 8 ch
29. K takes Q	29. R to R 6 (dbl. ch)
30. K to Kt sq	30. R to R 8

Checkmate.

Having now exhausted defences *x* and *y*, it remains only to test

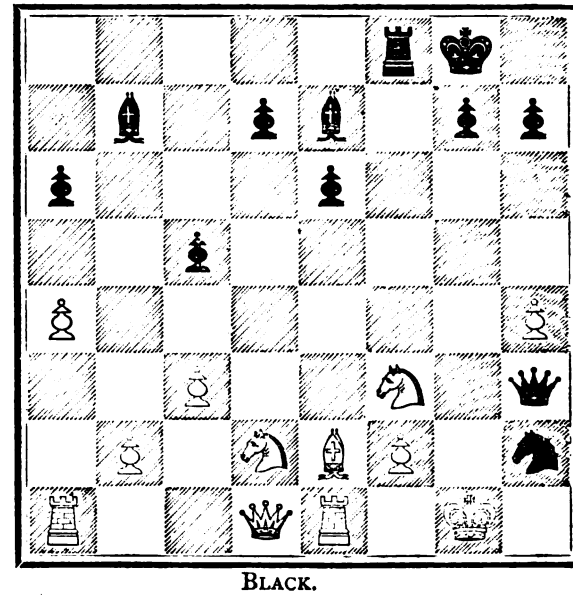
(*z*) 25. K to Kt sq

for the sake of convenience a diagram is subjoined.

IV.

Position in sub-variation (*z*) after the 25th move of White.

WHITE.



BLACK.

25. K to Kt sq	25. R to K B 5

White has three plausible replies,

1. B to K B sq. 2. Kt to K B sq. 3. Kt to K 4.

To the first, viz., 26. B to B sq, Black rejoins with

* If 28. R to K 4 Black can mate in four moves by a very simple process.

26. R to K Kt 5 ch and 27. Kt takes B dis ch and mating.

To the second Black can answer as follows :

26. Kt to K B sq	26. R takes Kt
27. K to R sq	

If—

27. Kt takes Kt	27. R to Kt 6 ch
28. P takes R	28. Q to Kt 7 mate

If—

27. Kt to K 3	27. R to Kt 6 ch
28. P takes R	28. Q takes P ch
29. Kt to Kt 2	29. Q takes Kt mate

If—

27. Kt to Kt 3	27. R takes Kt ch

And mate next move.

If—

27. B takes R	27. Kt takes B ch
28. Q takes Kt	28. B takes Q
29. Kt to Kt 3, R 2 or K 3	29. Q mates accordingly

Black can now give mate in four moves in two elegant ways, viz :—

Firstly—by Kt to K Kt 5 dis ch, followed by the sacrifice of the Queen at R's 8th.

Second by	27. Kt to K Kt 5 dis ch
28. K to Kt sq	28. R takes K B P
29. B to K B 3	29. R takes Kt ch
30. R takes R	30. Q to R 7 mate
Or	29. R to Kt 7 ch
30. B takes R	30. Q takes B mate
Again	29. Q to Kt 7 ch
30. B takes Q	30. R takes B ch
31. K moves	31. Kt to K B 7

Mate.

The capacities of the position are really astonishing, for yet another sacrifice of the Queen could be made but for one solitary resource, *e. g.*

	27. Kt to K Kt 5 dis ch
28. K to Kt sq	28. Q to Kt 7 ch
29. K takes Q	29. R to K B 7 dbl. ch
30. K to R 3	

would win, but any *other* move would lead to mate, for if 30. K to Kt sq, mate results in two moves, and if

30. K to Kt 3	30. R to Kt 7 ch
31. K to B 4 (best)	31. P to K 4 ch
32. K to B 5	32. P to K Kt 3

Mate.

Having disposed of the first and second replies to Black's play of 26. R to K B 5, we reach the third viz., Kt to K 4.

26. Kt to K 4	26. B takes Kt
27. Q to Q 6	

Bad is the best; Black mates easily in four! but the following variation is curious.

	27. B takes Kt
28. B to K B sq	28. Q takes B ch
29. R takes Q	29. B takes Q
30. K takes Kt	30. R takes P dbl ch
31. K to Kt sq	31. B to K R 7

Mate.

Is it not therefore capable of demonstration, that elegant as was the play of Professor Anderssen in the actual game, he let slip an opportunity full of interest? If the above variations should have occurred to Professor Anderssen, to Mr. Staunton, or to any other player, I trust he will accept my assurance that a beaten path has not *consciously* been trodden. There is an abundant fertility in the position, and the harvest, however reaped, belongs to the generous Chess public.

I remain, Dear Mr. Editor,

Yours very faithfully,

J. O. HOWARD TAYLOR.

WALPOLE HOUSE, THORPE, NEXT NORWICH.
24th October 1871.

[We have no doubt that the variations so ingeniously worked out by Mr. Taylor were in Mr. Staunton's mind when he penned the note, that Black had "a still shorter road to victory;" but so much of Mr. Staunton's *Chess Tournament* is devoted to explanations of Mr. Staunton's defeats, and to expositions of the almost drivelling mediocrity of Mr. Staunton's adversaries, that little space could be spared for more than suggestions concerning anything likely to be permanently useful or interesting. We are surprised, however, that so acute a critic as Mr. Taylor could have examined this game, and have failed to perceive the error in Mr. Staunton's note to the 11th move of White, wherein a line of play is recommended which, as Mr. Boden has pointed out to us, would cause the loss of two minor pieces for a Rook and Pawn.—EDITOR.]

THE SKIPWORTH CUP.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—The remarks in your last Number, on the recent match between Messrs. Skipworth and Owen, are pungent, but not altogether accurate.

The Counties' Chess Association has nothing whatever to do with the conditions of the late match. The

regulation respecting publication of games applies to the Cup of the Association, played for at Malvern, in August last, *and still* held by Mr. Skipworth. The late encounter was for the so-called Championship of the Provinces, the 12th condition of play reading as follows:—"That the winner in every match shall forward correct copies of all the games to the Editors of the *Chess Players' Quarterly Chronicle*, whose sole property they shall be considered." This is a most objectionable proviso; indeed, to my mind, the whole affair is a sham from beginning to end. There can be no objection to a couple of clergymen spending their spare time in a match at Chess, but that the winner of such match should dub himself "Champion of the Provinces," seems to me a piece of unwarrantable assumption. There are, I should say, at least half a score amateurs in the provinces who are fully equal in strength of play to the present holder of the Cup, but who are by business avocations debarred from entering the lists. For instance, by Condition 4, "the holder of the Cup shall be bound to fix or accept a time of play within fourteen days of receiving a challenge, and to commence within sixty days of receiving it, or give up the Cup, along with a forfeit of £1, to be paid to the Editors of the *Chess Players' Quarterly Chronicle*, for the Cup fund." Condition 7 states that "the Cup shall become the sole property of the first person holding it for three consecutive years."

These rules evidently narrow the competition to a comparatively few individuals, who have unlimited time at their disposal, and shut out the great body of amateurs, who have happily something better to do than to pass the greater part of their time poring over a Chess-board. I know, by personal experience, what a strain on the mental powers is a hard match at Chess. My match with Mr. Thorold, ten years ago, in which the games were played alternately at Huddersfield and Sheffield, at as short intervals as could be mutually arranged, lasted from February to August. We met eleven times during that period, one game being played at each sitting, and you may imagine, Mr. Editor, that a series of similar matches compressed into a much shorter space of time, would go far towards making a man weary of his life.

If you will allow me a little additional space, I should like to make an observation or two on the well-known game between Anderssen and Szén, which was deservedly brought before your readers in the December part of your magazine. Mr. Taylor does not seem to be aware that the *Grosses Schach Handbuch*, of Dufresne and Zukertort, Berlin 1871, gives, p. 635, the identical variation containing the sacrifice of Rook and Knight, which is the main feature of his analysis. Omitting the notes, and translating the German notation into our own, the following is the train of play suggested:—

White.	Black.	White.	Black.
	21. Kt to R 7 ch	26. K to Kt sq	26. B to R 7 ch (a)
22. K to Kt sq	22. R takes P ch	27. K to R sq	27. R takes Kt
23. K takes R (A)	23. Q to Kt 5 ch	28. Kt takes R	28. B takes Kt ch
24. K takes Kt (B)	24. B to Q 3 ch	29. B takes B	29. B to Kt 3 dis ch
25. K to R sq	25. Q to R 6 ch		And mates in two moves

(a) This appears more decisive than Mr. Taylor's move—26. R to K B 5.—J.W.

(A) 23. K to R sq	23. Kt takes Kt	(B) 24. K to R sq	24. Kt takes Kt
24. Kt takes Kt	24. B takes Kt, &c.	25. Kt takes Kt	25. R to K B 5, &c. (b)

(b) Would not Q to R 6 ch, followed by this move, be stronger play?—J.W.

I remain, Sir, yours truly, JOHN WATKINSON.

[We have to thank Mr. Watkinson for his correction of our mistake, in reference to the conditions of the late contest for the "Skipworth Cup," but, having regard to the fuss made about the affair, we still think that our error was a natural one. We see now (too late!) that we had not sufficiently considered the blandishments of publicity to the "smaller fry of smaller men," but find consolation in the thought that, like the Cibbers and Dennises of old, they think it "better to be—censured—than not named at all." With regard to the Anderssen *v.* Szén variations, we *know* that Mr. Taylor could not have been aware of the fact that his variations were dealt with in the *Grosses Schach Handbuch*, for his MS. was in our possession some three weeks before any copy of that work reached this country.—EDITOR.]

PROBLEM TOURNEY.

WE have been requested to publish the following letter, which speaks for itself. We take this opportunity of expressing our regret that the names of the competitors in the Westminster Chess Club Problem Tourney were published before the expiration of the time fixed for their public examination. In our present Tourney the names of the competitors shall not be made public until after the prizes have been paid over to the winners.

23rd December 1871.

DEAR SIR,—Our attention having been directed to a variation occurring on the play of "White" in one of the set of problems to which we awarded the first prize in our letter to you of the 23rd October last, and

having found that such variation is in fact a second solution of the problem in question, we beg leave to amend our award as follows:—

1st Prize, Mr. J. W. Abbott. | 2nd Prize, Mr. J. H. Finlinson.

We cannot close this letter without expressing our great regret that so excellent a set of problems as those contributed by Mr. Freeborough, should be marred by an imperfection which debars the ingenious composer from receiving a prize. We are dear Sir, yours faithfully,

R. B. WORMALD,
P. T. DUFFY.

To the Secretary of the Westminster Chess Club.

PROBLEMS.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—I hope M. Barbier's interesting letter will provoke a correspondence from some of your contributors on the subject to which he draws attention. It seems to me that the time has arrived when a settlement of the dummy pawn question should be attempted. I am decidedly of opinion that the dummy should be allowed in the construction of Problems, at the option of the composer, as it would tend to lessen the difficulties to be overcome in certain positions, and as M. Barbier truly says, would render Problems simpler and neater.

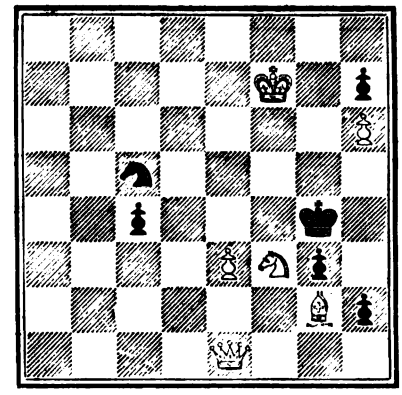
I have composed the following little Problem as a case in point, to illustrate the use of the dummy, without which the position would require considerable alteration.

Now, a few words on the so-called unnatural positions. M. Barbier says, after proving Mr. Portilla's Problem an impossible position, that the author may draw a marked distinction between Problems and End Games. This is exactly my idea on the subject, and I contend that a Problem should be regarded as a composition, and need not necessarily resemble an End Game. It would appear that Mr. Loyd entertains some such opinion, if we may judge by his compositions Nos. 381 and 409 *Chess Nuts*. It would be highly interesting if Healey, Bayer, Loyd, Campbell, &c. would participate in this correspondence; the opinions of such men would be invaluable, and would go far towards settling the vexed questions one way or another.

I am, Sir, yours obediently, J. W. ABBOTT.

The B P on arriving at R 8 to remain a Dummy.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—Will you allow me to continue a little further the analysis of Mr. Loyd's problem commenced by M. Barbier in your December number? By doing so I think it is possible to arrive at a reply to M. Barbier's suggestions with regard to increasing the size of the Chess-board for problem purposes, and permitting the use of dummy pawns.

M. Barbier has pointed out that the White King must stand on Q B file for the purpose of limiting White's play to 2. R to Q R 8 in the defence

1. K to K B 8 or Kt 8.

I assume this to have been the finishing touch of the composer.

The position of the Q on the second line is fixed at Q Kt 2 to provide for the defences

1. K to B 6 and K to R 6.

As the position of a piece which meets two lines of defence is of more importance than that of one which limits White's play to a particular move, I assume that the place for the Queen was decided upon by the composer before that of the King.

This leaves the defence 1. K to R sq

as the root-idea of this problem, determining loosely the relative positions of White Q, R and Kt, and Black P.

The composer will thus have built up the problem with one variation of his own, and three others suggested by a careful analysis of the position.

This result seems to prove that it is not necessary for a composer to insist rigorously on carrying out his ideas by the use of a larger board, or dummy pawns.

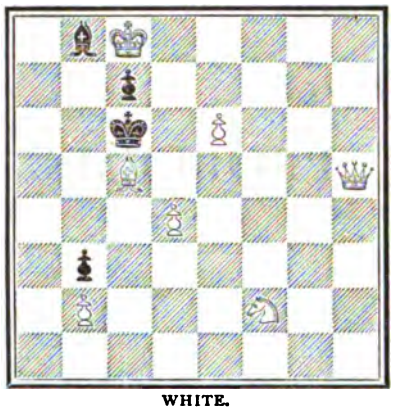
It indicates rather that a fine problem is a compromise between, or combination of, the composer's idea, with the resources of the position in which he seeks to embody it—the ruling principle of this compromise or combination being a desire to economise pieces. Yours truly, X.

PROBLEMS.

No. LXXI.—By V. N. Portilla.
BLACK.

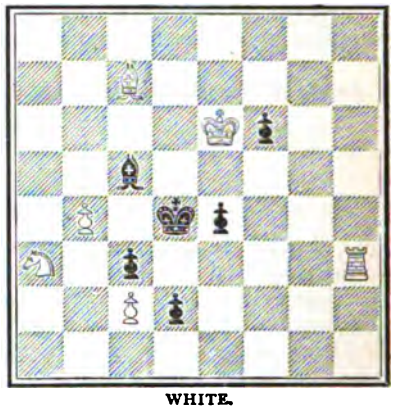
WHITE.
White to play and mate in two moves.

No. LXXII.—By J. W. Abbott.
BLACK.



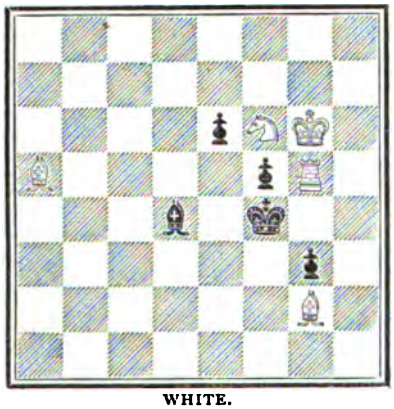
WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. LXXIII.—By James Menzies.
BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. LXXIV.—By G. E. Barbier.
BLACK.

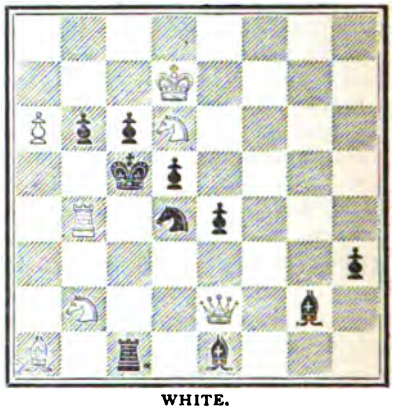


WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. LXXV.—By Herr Kling.
BLACK.

WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

No. LXXVI.—By J. A. W. Hunter.
BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

LXXVII.—By A. Lulman, Melbourne.
BLACK.

WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

No. LXXVIII.—By Victor Gorgias.
BLACK.

WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

No. LXXIX.—By B. Horwitz.
BLACK.

WHITE.
White to play and win.

GAME LVI.

Played at the Westminster Chess Club, between Messrs. Boden and Marett, the former giving the odds of Pawn and move.

Remove Black's K B P from the board.

White. Mr. Marett.	Black. Mr. Boden.	White. Mr. Marett.	Black. Mr. Boden.
1. P to K 4	1. Kt to Q B 3	24. Kt to Q B 3	24. R to Q B 2
2. P to Q 4	2. P to K 4	25. Q to Q Kt 3	25. Kt to K B 5
3. P to Q 5 (a)	3. Q Kt to K 2	26. Q R to K B sq	26. K R to Q B sq
4. B to K Kt 5	4. Kt to K B 3	27. Kt to K R 3	27. R takes Kt (f)
5. B to Q 3 (b)	5. Kt to Kt 3	28. R takes R	28. Kt takes Kt
6. Kt to Q B 3	6. B to Q B 4	29. B to K 6	29. R takes R
7. P to K R 4	7. P to Q 3	30. Q takes R (g)	30. Q takes Q ch
8. Q Kt to K 2 (c)	8. P to K R 3	31. K takes Q	31. Kt to K B 5
9. B to K 3	9. B takes B	32. B to B 8	32. P to Q R 4
10. P takes B	10. Kt to Kt 5	33. B to Kt 4	33. Kt (at R 5) to Kt 7
11. B to Kt 5 ch	11. P to Q B 3 (d)	34. B to B 3	34. Kt to K 6
12. P takes P	12. Castles	35. R to Q Kt sq	35. P to Kt 4
13. Q to Q 5 ch	13. K to R sq	36. R to Q Kt 6	36. P to Kt 5
14. P takes P	14. B takes P	37. B to R sq	37. P to Q 4 (h)
15. Q takes B	15. Kt takes K P	38. R takes P ch (j)	38. K to Kt 2
16. K to Q 2 (e)	16. Kt takes Kt P	39. R to Q R 6	39. P to Q 5 ch
17. Q to Q 7	17. Q to Kt 3	40. K to Q 2	40. P to Kt 6
18. R to K R 3	18. P to Q R 3	41. R to R 7 ch (k)	41. K to B 3
19. B to B 6	19. Q R to Q B sq	42. R to R 6 ch	42. K to Kt 4
20. R to K Kt 3	20. Kt (at Kt 7) takes P	43. P to Q B 3 (l)	43. Kt to B 5 ch
21. B to Q 5	21. Q takes Q Kt P	44. K to Q B 2	44. P to Q 6 ch
22. R to Q B sq	22. Q to Q Kt 3	45. K to Q sq	45. P to Kt 7
23. Q to Q Kt 7	23. Q to R 4 ch	46. B takes P	46. Kt takes B and wins.

(a) P takes P at this point gives White a fine attacking game.

(b) Salvio, in his treatise, recommends : B takes Kt, followed by Q to R 5 ch, &c.

(c) White's last two moves are exceedingly weak, and afford Black too much "time."

(d) B to Q 2 would have been sounder play, but the sacrifice of the piece increases the liveliness of the game.

(e) Apparently his best move, for Black threatens Kt takes Q B P ch, as well as R to B 8 ch.

(f) All this is very pretty and amusing.

(g) The following variation might also have occurred here :—

30 R to B 8 ch	30 K to R 2
31 B to Kt 8 ch	31 K to Kt 3

(If 31 K to R sq, White draws by perpetual check.)

32 Q to B 7 ch	32 K to Kt 4
33 Q takes P ch	33 Kt to Kt 3
34 R to B 5 ch	34 K to Kt 5 best
35 Q takes Kt ch	35 Kt to Kt 4
36 K to Q sq, &c.	

(h) The end game is played in masterly style by Mr. Boden, and offers an instructive lesson to the student in the manipulation of the Knights and Pawns.

(j) If

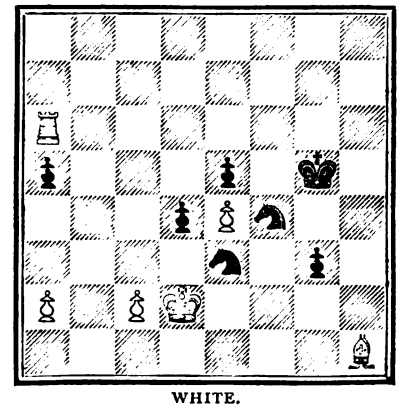
30 P takes P	38 Kt takes P ch
39 B takes Kt	39 Kt takes B, &c.

(k) Obviously he cannot take P with R, because of Kt to B 5 ch, &c.

(l) The position is exceedingly difficult for White, but we believe that at this point B to B 6 would have given him a fair chance of drawing the game.

We commend the study of this end game to our readers, and, for convenient reference, we append a diagram of the position before White made his 43rd move.

BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play.

GAME LVII.

Recently played at the St. George's Chess Club, between Mr. Lowenthal and Mr. Owen.

FIANCHETTO.

White Mr. LOWENTHAL.	Black. Mr. OWEN.	White. Mr. LOWENTHAL.	Black. Mr. OWEN.
1. P to K 4	1. P to Q Kt 3 (a)	15. Kt to B 3	15. B to R 3
2. P to K B 4	2. B to Q Kt 2	16. Kt to K sq	16. B to Kt 2
3. P to Q 3	3. P to K 3	17. P to R 3	17. Q Kt to B 3
4. K Kt to R 3	4. P to Q B 4	18. Kt to B 3 (c)	18. P to K B 3
5. B to K 2	5. B to Q 3	19. Q to Kt 3 (d)	19. Q to Q 3
6. B to K 3	6. Kt to Q B 3	20. P to B 5	20. K R to Q sq (e)
7. P to Q B 3	7. Q R to Q B sq	21. Kt to B 4	21. K to R sq
8. Castles	8. B to Kt sq	22. Q takes K P	22. Q to B 4
9. Kt to Q 2	9. K Kt to K 2	23. Q R to Q B sq	23. Q to Q Kt 4
10. B to K B 3	10. Castles	24. Kt to K R 5	24. Q takes Kt P
11. P to K Kt 3	11. P to Q 4	25. Kt to Kt 5 (f)	25. P takes Kt (g)
12. B to Kt 2	12. P to Q 5	26. P to B 6	26. P to K Kt 3
13. P takes P	13. P takes P	27. P takes Kt and wins	
14. B to B 2	14. Kt to Kt 5 (b)		

(a) This excessively dull and timorous opening, which always reminds us of the bather shivering upon the river-bank while he is screwing up his courage for the plunge, has been condemned by every player and writer of genius from the earliest period. It is however a favourite with the few disciples of Mr. Staunton's school still in existence, and may be regarded as a speciality in the case of Mr. Owen, who, so far as we know, never in a set encounter adopts any other defence.

(b) In the preceding moves, as in all close games, the efforts of the players have been absorbed in a struggle for superiority of position. Black now commences an attack upon the Queen's Pawn, and meets with the fate reserved for most players, who first assume the offensive in the *Fianchetto.*

(c) The result of this demonstration is unpromising, to say the least of it. Curiously enough, Black's position is now exactly the same as it was before he made his 14th move, so that he has, in point of fact, presented his adversary with two moves, viz.: P to Q R 3 and Kt to K B 3.

(d) There is no mistake about this attack. White means to have the pawn, and gets it.

(e) Any attempt to defend the pawn would only serve to make matters worse. Suppose—

	20. Kt to Q sq or K to B 2
21. Kt takes P or Kt to B 4	21. K to B 2 or Kt to Q sq
22. Kt to B 4 or Kt takes Q P, &c.	

(f) A masterly coup! Imparting an interest to the finish, which could not have been anticipated from the opening moves.

(g) As good as anything else. White now threatens to mate in four moves, by Kt to B 7 ch, &c.

If 24 R to K B sq, 25 Kt to B 7 ch, 25 R takes Kt, 26 Q takes R, 26 R to Kt sq best. If the K moves 26 Kt to Q 6 ch, wins the Queen, and White can now take Kt with R, continuing the battle with the advantage of a piece and Pawn. And if—24 Kt to K 4, 25 Q takes K Kt, 25 R to Kt sq best, 26 R takes R, 26 B takes R, 27 Q takes Kt, winning easily.

CHESS PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

ENGLAND . . . *Land and Water; Chess Players' Quarterly Chronicle.*
GERMANY . . . *Leipsic Schachzeitung, Berlin Schachzeitung,* and *Grosses Schach Handbuch.*
FRANCE . . . . *La Strategie* and *L'Univers Illustre.*
UNITED STATES . *Dubuque Chess Journal, New York Clipper, City of Brooklyn, Hartford Times, Turf, Field and Farm.*
CANADA . . . . *Western Advertiser* (London, Ontario).
AUSTRALIA . . . *Observer* (Adelaide); *Australasian* and *Leader* (Melbourne).

PROBLEM TOURNEY.

PROBLEM Composers, intending to compete, will bear in mind that the last days to send in Problems are as follows:—20th January for England, 20th February for Europe and North America, and 20th May for the rest of the world. For other particulars, see our November number.

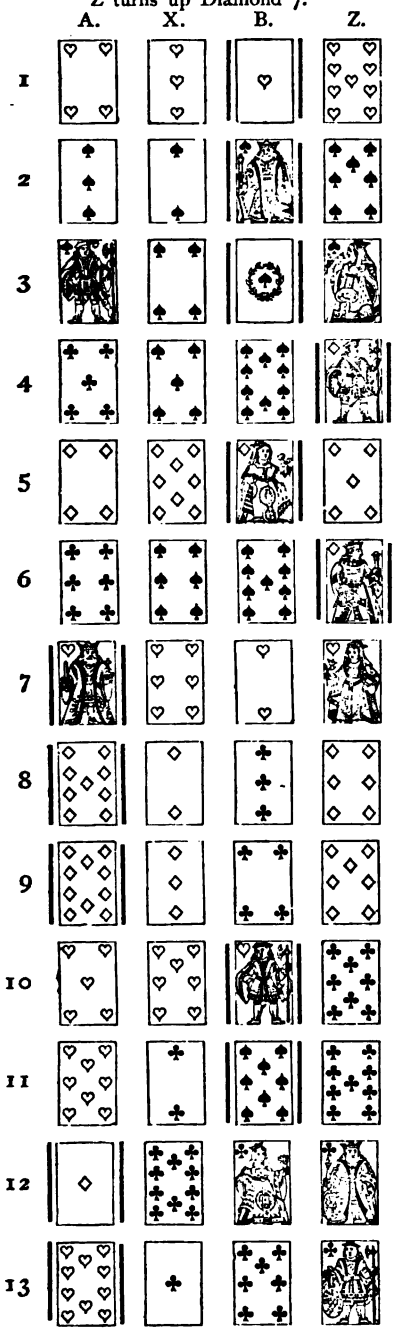
WHIST.

A and B play against X and Z. A leads. The card with the double rim wins, and the card below the rimmed card is the next one led.

HAND No. 115.

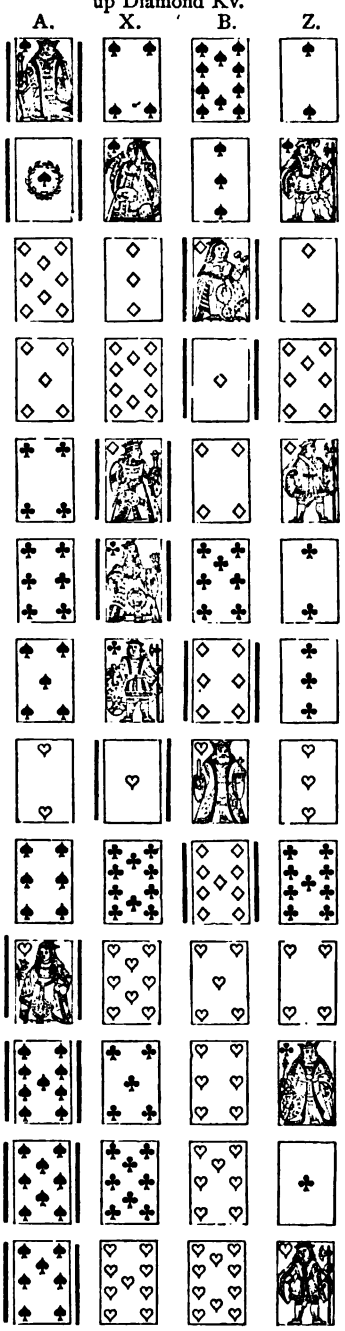
Score—Love All.

Z's Hand—D Kg, Kv, 7, 6, 5; H Ace, 9; S Q, 7; C Kg, Kv, 9, 8.
Z turns up Diamond 7.



HAND No. 116.

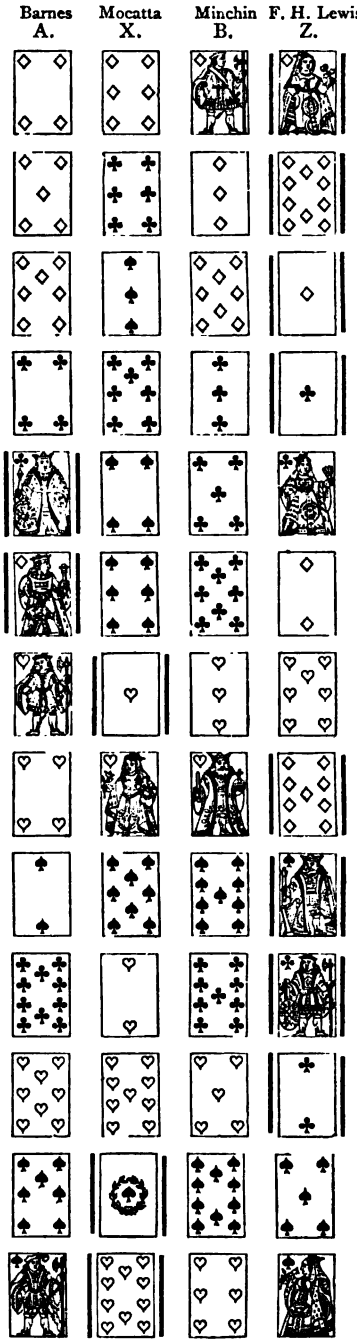
Played at the Union Club, Belfast.
B's Hand.—S 10, 3; D Ace, Q, 9, 6, 4; C 7; H K, 10, 7, 6, 5.
Score—A and B 1. X and Z 3. Z turns up Diamond Kv.



HAND No. 117.

Played at the Westminster Chess Club, 31st October 1871.

Z turns up Diamond 2.



HAND No. 115.

NOTES.—In obedience to your request, I send you a hand you may think worth publishing. The large score is very lucky. The point of the play is that A (myself) twice refused to over-ruff, because the lead was disadvantageous for a good score. Had Z, whose hand also was disadvantageous to lead from, followed the same tactics, by trumping the fourth trick with a small trump, A would not have been justified in not over-ruffing. In that event Z must be led up to, and could not lose the game. In my opinion Z's lead of trumps on trick five is bad, because his knave winning, he should place the strength (if any) of trumps in B's hand. Had he opened his strong suit of Clubs he could not lose the game. —S. P.

HAND No. 116.

NOTES.—2. B signals for trump. 8. B knows his partner has four Spades and two Hearts. By his throwing away a Spade in place of a Heart he knows that he has not the Ace, and is probably trying to keep a guard to the Queen. He therefore leads the King of Hearts. X plays carelessly: had he counted A's hand he would have held up his Heart Ace and defeated B's combination.

HAND No. 117.

NOTES.—2. Keeping the command, as A is not likely to head it. 9. As X shows he has all the strength in Hearts, and Z is uncertain as to number of Clubs in A's hand, he clears his Spade suit.

WHIST JOTTINGS—EDUCATION.

Now that the boys are home for the holidays, and the masters are enjoying their well-earned recreation, and indulging in that blessing—absolute repose—we may suggest, for future guidance, the importance of Whist as a means of imparting information to youth. We are all looking forward to the advance of education, as a means to the end we all have in view: the prosperity, welfare, and happiness of our country. We are dissatisfied with the education we received at school. The endless time devoted to Latin and Greek (all of which we have forgotten) makes us regret that the time was so ill-spent. By this we by no means intend to disparage the utility of Greek and Latin. They have their uses, and if we had sufficient time to master those languages, instead of to obtain only a smattering of them, we would advocate their study with every argument in our power. A little knowledge is dangerous. A little accurate knowledge on any subject is of value. But a little knowledge which is always to remain little, and which is likely to be misunderstood, is to our thinking useless. If we must have but a short time for education, let us have knowledge of our own, or some other modern language. Why we are not taught to write English at an English school, is past our comprehension. But language after all, is not the object of education. Professor Huxley has lately suggested, as a subject for instruction, Natural History Sciences. We desire, in the same spirit, to suggest Whist. The Professor says the method of all sciences are identical, and the points and their order are as follows:—1. Observation; 2. Comparison; 3. Deduction; 4. Verification. In the matter of Whist the order does not appear the same. It might be so, if we started Whist for the first time to day, but as this is not the case, we have the classification in the leads already provided for us. Every modern player knows that when a 2 is led originally that the leader has four at least of that suit. If we had known nothing of Whist before we sat down, this information would not be before us. The observation of facts therefore comes after the comparison, or classification, which the Professor calls "a tying together of similar facts into bundles," and the production of one card from the bundle tells us to expect the number or quality of the cards in the same bundle. But be this as it may, and whether we can speak of Whist as a science or not, it seems to us there are many things that could be taught by Whist that could not be taught in any other manner. There is much that is taught by means of mathematics and the classics that could be taught by Whist, and there is much that could be taught at Whist that cannot be taught by either the one or the other. To teach any subject well, the master must take a great delight in his occupation. He must make his remarks easy, interesting, and comprehensible. He must be master of his subject, and enthusiastic about it. On the other hand, the pupil must undergo a large amount of work and much drudgery.

There is no science yet known that does not require hard work, industry, patience, and perseveranee to learn it. There is not yet any Royal road to learning. If the reason for teaching classics and mathematics be to teach the pupils to be accurate in their thoughts, does not the practice of Whist require the same accuracy, and is not the pupil taught to deduce from given facts other facts as corollaries of the first, in the same way that he would learn from the study of Euclid. Over and above the advantage of learning from the painted pictures before us (the letters of the alphabet), we have living instead of lay figures to operate upon. The cards in the first instance, are but an introduction to learning, as the letters enable us to read; and the power to read gives the opportunity to open all the hidden caskets stored on our bookshelves. But learning, although sometimes used for higher purposes, is more frequently required to deal with the world as we find it, not in the abstract, but as it is. Now at School-Whist we have already the world in miniature, on which to practice. A world with the same feelings and passions as the larger world, into which the pupil is soon to enter. Here is a field entirely neglected, a field far surpassing all other fields in fertility, that the master has ever attempted to

cultivate. It is true that a good master endeavours to ascertain and bring out a boy's character. His aim is to encourage the good, and to suppress or bring under control the faults and vices of the youth under his charge, but how few opportunities has he of ever finding out what those qualities are in comparison to what he could see at the Whist table. Here at any rate nature will out, whether it be good or bad; and the less cultivated the boy, the more certain is he to exhibit his foibles. The master may find by examination whether a boy has improved in his Latin or Greek, but he learns only by accident whether the boys' character is better or deteriorated. If Whist were part of the curriculum, the master could detect whether the pupil was more attentive and more observant; whether the memory was strengthened or not (this is the supposed object of the examination), but he would see also whether the pupil deduced inferences correctly, whether his ingenuity was at fault, and beyond all this, whether the pupil had his temper under restraint; whether he became ill-tempered and quarrelsome (as is the nature of the Whist player) in his adversity, or too elated in his prosperity. Surely it should be no small part of the education of youth to encourage their pluck, daring (rashness if you will), and to teach them to use those qualities at the right time. These things need not be left to chance. It is true that in the cricket field a certain number of the players (the captain, the bowler, the wicket-keeper and batsman) are bound to use their heads, but how small are the opportunities of using the head in comparison to those that occur at the Whist table. Here not only must the rashness be taught as a necessity, to be of use in desperate cases, but the opportunities for inculcating caution occur every hand. Even Political Economy in a mild form can be taught by this means. Economy, not political, is taught at every step. He who throws away a 4 of a suit where a 2 would do as well, has exhibited carelessness or extravagance, probably both. Nor is there any subject with which we are acquainted so good for the purpose of expatiating upon and practically exemplifying that despised virtue, patience. To keep your temper, again, is doubtless a subject frequently uppermost in the master's thoughts, and what a field he has for preaching on the subject at Whist! Any player will find out at the Whist table more of a man's character in half-a-dozen meetings, than he could find out of the same man in private intercourse in a year. This should be a point worthy the schoolmaster's notice. A quality, in our opinion, worthy of much more attention than it has yet received. For after all, "The proper study of mankind is man."

The object of education is to turn the beast, the uncouth savage, into the cultivated man. Yet. curiously enough, one portion of the man, "the gambling element," is in our system of education entirely ignored, and probably because it is ignored—at any rate because it is not pruned and cultivated, as a good tree should be pruned and cultivated—it grows into a rank vine producing bad fruit. The moment the boy leaves the University (often before) this spirit breaks out and overpowers every other feeling or passion he possesses. The passion, which like all other passions, is valuable if properly guided, becomes a curse or demon within us, from want of restraint or culture. The general system of teaching a boy to behave as a gentleman—to teach him to be honest, pure and true—is to place him with other boys possessing those qualifications; and as one boy inoculates other boys with the same feelings, so in like manner an ill-favoured individual encourages vice in the shape of lying and dishonesty. The schoolmaster guides the pupils as best he can, and, by his own example of high feeling and justice, succeds to a limited extent. It is this limit we desire to see enlarged. Something is wanted to exhibit the latent powers of these boys; to bring out the good and bad qualities, in order that the master may know how to deal with the subject under his charge. Whist, under the master's eye, would give this opportunity—Cricket and Foot-ball will, to a limited extent, show many of the boys' qualities, but there is no game to compare with Whist for this object. We have then a twofold object, the improvement of the boy, and the improvement of Whist. Until the boy be taught to play according to rule for a given time (as Mr. Clay recommends all young Whist players to play), we cannot realise that advance in the game that we hope to witness. No good Whist school will ever arise, except on the supposition that men practise together on the same system, and play without false cards for a given time. Without practice no man can ever succeed in acquiring the habit of drawing all the inferences as the cards fall; and until this habit is acquired no one can ever succeed in playing well. One hour a day for six months would be sufficient, with a knowledge of the leads, to obtain this faculty with ease, and this would be sufficient education to make the pupil enter the higher class.

Nor ought we to omit to mention here the study of the laws of the game, and the infinite variety of cases that occur in the construction of those laws, exemplified month by month, by the answers to correspondents in these pages. There is nothing more important for a man entering life than to understand the principles of law. The laws of Whist are bad and confused, but herein there is a close analogy to the laws of England, and the principles and practice of the one guides the young idea to the right construction of the other. At the Whist table these examples crop up hour by hour, and the student has cases before him for discussion and decision without expense.

Although it is too common for young men to enter the world with no knowledge on the subject of our laws, it is a disgrace to our system of education that such should be the case, and we fully believe a good lawyer could instil half the principles of English law into the pupil's head through the cases that arise at Whist. To hear men argue at the Whist table on points of law is generally painful. Unless the words of the law meet the exact case in hand, the ordinary Whist player is quite at a loss to decide the point at issue. The

Whist law is like the common law in this, that besides the code, we have numerous cases decided (often made to meet the supposed justice or hardship of a case), often contradictory, and seldom with a clear principle in view. To see how far those cases are binding, and to ascertain if there be a principle guiding the decision, is a duty a Whist judge must perform, and we can imagine no better practice for the embryo judge than exhibiting his skill in unravelling the points at issue, and bringing his acumen and judgment into play in pronouncing on the points left to him for decision in these sham law suits.

SHEWING YOUR HAND TO YOUR PARTNER.

THE following correspondence has appeared in the *Field:*

SIR,—Of all extraordinary opinions on Whist law, not one, in my opinion, is so extraordinary as that contained in your paper of the 4th Nov. last, where, in answer to W. H. A., you say that

A player lowering his hand so that it can be seen, but without detaching a card, is not liable to have his cards called. It may be said, then, that a player may intentionally lower his cards, so that his partner may see them, without any card penalty. We think he may. . . .

I had hoped that some one else would question this opinion; but, as no one has taken the trouble, I feel impelled to do so, and, in order to exhaust the question once for all, propose to set out *verbatim* the laws which affect the question—viz.:

Law 56. All exposed cards are liable to be called, and must be left on the table; but a card is not an exposed card when dropped on the floor or elsewhere below the table.

The following are exposed cards:

1. Two or more cards played at once.

2. Any card dropped with its face upwards, or in any way exposed, on or above the table, even although snatched up so quickly that no one can name it.

Law 58. If a player, or players, under the impression that the game is lost or won, or for other reasons, throw his or their cards on the table face upwards, such cards are exposed, and liable to be called, each player's by the adversary; but should one player alone retain his hand, he cannot be forced to abandon it.

Law 60. A card detached from the rest of the hand so as to be named, is liable to be called; but should the adversary name a wrong card, he is liable to have a suit called when he or his partner have the lead.

When I come to analyse these laws I find myself unable to commend their arrangement, but still their meaning is, in my opinion, clear.

Law 56 starts off with stating generally the penalty for exposing cards, and then states a particular case in which, although a card may be actually seen, it shall not be considered as an exposed card within the meaning of the law. It then states two cases in which a card is to be treated as an exposed card, although perhaps not actually seen, the second case being when a card is dropped with its face upwards, or *in any way exposed on or above the table.* Now, can it be said, when a man, intending to let all the players see his cards, deliberately lowers them until palpably visible to all, that he has not in any way exposed them? Does the fact of his holding them alter the fact that they are exposed above the table? No, it cannot. Unless, therefore, some other law distinctly says that cards held in the hand, although exposed, shall not be liable to be called, they are clearly so liable. I do not think that you, Mr. Editor, are casuistical enough to argue that Law 58 says as much. It certainly says that the cards of the three players who throw down their cards can be called, whilst it does not say that the cards of the player who retains his hand can. But then the law is silent as to whether the player who retains his hand exposes it or not. As I read it, it implies the contrary. At any rate, there is nothing like a clear statement that so long as a player retains his cards, they cannot, even if exposed, be called. The object of Law 58 is not to define exposed cards, but to make it clear that, so long as a man keeps his cards in his hand, he has not abandoned the game.

But you will, I know, rely on Law 60, and, because this law says that a card detached from the rest of the hand so as to be named is liable to be called, will argue that, unless a card is detached it cannot be called; but this is poor logic. The law says nothing of the sort, and the only implication it contains affecting the calling or non-calling of any particular card or cards is that a detached card cannot be called unless named.

Let us for one moment consider the absurdities to which your opinion would lead us. A player holding six cards detaches one, two, three, four, or five of them, and, holding them in his other hand, shows them to the players. It is clear that these are exposed cards, and can be called; but if he adds to the offence by showing all six cards together, none of them (so you say) can be called. Or if he shows all six of them, one by one, they can all be called; but if he shows them together, they cannot.

Again, you have often held that when a player says, or even only necessarily implies, that he has a particular card in his hand, the card so pointed out is constructively exposed, and consequently can be called; and yet you say that when he actually exposes that card with the rest of his hand it cannot be called.

Whilst on this point, I think you should let your readers know all your views about it. I therefore propose to put a few cases. A player at the end of the hand holds Ace and Queen of trumps, and Ace of another suit. If he shows his cards, retaining them in his hand, you say they cannot be called; but if, instead of showing them, he says, "I hold the Ace and Queen of trumps and Ace of Spades," can they then be called? Will it alter the case if he only says, "I have the Ace and Queen of trumps?" To be logical and consistent, you ought to decide, in the first place, that none can be called, because none of the cards named are, as it were, detached from the rest of the hand (all being named). In the second case, you ought to decide that the Ace and Queen of trumps are technically detached from the rest of the hand, and consequently liable to be called if named. But would not such decisions be nonsense?

Further, will it make any difference if at the time of showing his hand the player says, "You see, I hold the Ace and Queen of trumps and Ace of Spades." Is that enough to make them exposed cards, or must they be actually put down on the table? If we are not to read the laws according to the plain natural meaning of the words, all the light you will vouchsafe to us will be most highly appreciated; and for the future we will burn our copies of the laws, as only misleading without the help of some one who, being behind the scenes, knows how to find in them a meaning directly opposed to what the words themselves would seem clearly to convey.

MOGUL.

SIR,—In *The Field* of 16th Dec. there is a letter from the ingenious and argumentative "Mogul," wherein he, in his usual trenchant and uncompromising style, objects to a decision that appeared in your paper, because it is, in his opinion, "extraordinary." I am prepared to defend the opinion which he deems to be the most extraordinary ever given; and, therefore, I at once admit that the opinion he impugns is mine, was written after due deliberation, and after consultation with several players of high repute.

The acute "Mogul" in his letter pays the writer of the opinion in question the compliment of saying that he does not expect him to be casuistical enough to argue that a law which

says a player retaining his hand does not abandon it, means something else. So far he is right; I do not intend to use any such argument. "Mogul," further on, says he knows I shall rely on another law, which says that a card detached from the rest of the hand is liable to be called, if named; and that I may argue hence, with poor logic, that unless a card is detached it cannot be called. Here, however, "Mogul" is wrong, as I do not intend to rely on the law which, as regards this case in dispute, he has been so kind as to demolish for me. Extraordinary as it may appear to "Mogul," I am going to rely on expediency and common sense.

The question is, can cards, not thrown down or detached, but merely lowered so that their faces may be seen, be deemed to be exposed cards within the meaning of the law or not? The law says:

The following are exposed cards: Two or more cards played at once; any card dropped with its face upwards, or in any way exposed on or above the table, even though snatched up so quickly that no one can name it.

It is with the meaning of the last sentence that we have to deal. It says that an exposed card is a card in any way exposed. That we knew before. It does not define exposure; it says, in effect, an exposed card is an exposed card; and it adds, in effect, having exposed or dropped with its face upwards any card, you cannot cover the offence by snatching it up again. And what the law also says by implication is that if you do not drop a card or cards, but merely lower your hand without abandoning it, you may raise your hand to its usual position without penalty.

The reason the law does not punish lowering of the hand is, to my mind, clear. To bring the offender within the pale of the law he must do some act which can be clearly and easily defined. For instance, he must drop a card, or he must detach a card; these are acts about which there can be no dispute as to the fact. But when it comes to be a question at what precise angle a man may or may not hold his cards (this question being involved in lowering the hand), the law wisely determines not to interfere. Imagine for a moment the rule to be, a player lowering his hand so that his partner can see it is liable to have his cards called; such a law would give rise to endless disputes as to whether the hand was so lowered that partner could or could not see the cards.

On referring to the opinion already printed, it will be found that I say "a player may lower his cards, so that his partner can see them without any card penalty." I wrote the words "without any card penalty" advisedly. There is a penalty, and a much more severe one than any written penalty, for doing things which are irregular, but which written laws do not punish. The penalty is social excommunication. The penalty among club men is enforced first by the use of the ballot box; and where that fails, by excluding the offender from the card-room, either by declining to play with him (when, if he has any decency left, he will soon make himself scarce); or, as a final resort in aggravated cases, by expulsion from the club. I have, dozens of times, seen tables broken up because an objectionable player presented himself; and it is well known that the play clubs of London have more than once been dissolved in order to get rid of black sheep. There are great difficulties in the way of turning a man out of a club if he does not choose to go, it is not easy to make him; and in practice it has been found the readiest way to dissolve the club, and to re-form it immediately.

Since the decision in *The Field* has given rise to a protest from "Mogul," I have sought to strengthen my view by obtaining another opinion—viz., that of "J. C." I know "Mogul" does not approve of my making a "whist pope" of "J.C." I would therefore remark that, though in my judgment "J.C." is the first living authority on Whist law, I do not go so far as to say he is infallible. I have permission to print his opinion, kindly given to me, and your readers, after perusing it, will form their own views on the case of "Mogul" v. "Cavendish" and "J. C."

"You ask my opinion, as to whether a player at whist holding his hand so low that it can be seen by the other players is liable to have his cards called under the laws, whether directly or by implication, which affect exposed cards.

"I was the chairman of the committee of gentlemen by whom these laws were framed, and am therefore in a position to know that it was not intended to treat as exposed cards a hand lowered as you describe.

"Whether such intention be right or wrong is another question, and one which I have always considered very debatable. I was, however, and am still of opinion, that these cards should not be treated as exposed cards for the following reason:

"When the law inflicts any penalty on an offence at cards, it is desirable that the act to be punished should be clear and beyond doubt. Thus, for example, throwing down the cards on the table is an act as to which no dispute of fact can arise. So also in the case of a separated card, the fact of the separation is required to be proved, and can be proved, by the naming of the card separated. In the case of a 'lowered hand' the question of degree is introduced, that is to say, how much or how little the hand has been lowered, and it is a question which it may be often very difficult to settle. Thus a player may say to his opponent, 'I shall call your cards, for every one can see your hand.' To which the reply may be, 'My partner cannot. Why do you look over my hand?' Indeed, in the old days of duelling, I recollect a serious quarrel resulting from the above occurrence.

"I may then be told that, whenever it is of great importance to a player that his partner should know his cards, and of no great consequence that they should be seen by his adversaries, he may by lowering his cards give this information, and be subject to no penalty. But this is not so. There are many offences at cards, and those the most serious, against which no laws can be framed, because the offence is very difficult of proof, and because, if proved, the only proper punishment would be expulsion from the society in which it is committed.

"A good instance of this class of offence is the case of a player who looks over his neighbour's hand. What offence can be graver? Yet no penalty can be attached to it. By inadvertence any man may once in a way direct his eyes to an opponent's hand; but if he does it frequently you cease to play with him.

"To this class of offences, in so far as regards the imposition of a penalty, I consider the 'lowering of cards' to belong.

"I admit that much is to be said on the other side, and that few are more capable of saying it than 'Mogul,' who has, I see, addressed a letter to *The Field* on the subject.—J. C."

CAVENDISH.

We have to thank Mogul for so promptly calling attention to this decision. Its importance is our apology for transferring the correspondence bodily to these pages. It is somewhat curious to note that in all the cases in which we have differed from Cavendish there is a principle at stake which Cavendish fails to notice. The first principle in the construction of a law or a deed, an Act of Parliament or an agreement, is that under no circumstances can you leave out a word or phrase if the whole document can be made to read together. You cannot leave out a word or a sentence except when two words or sentences contradict each other. Next, it is a truism to assert that the natural must be preferred to the non-natural meaning. Cavendish and Mr. Clay both violate these rules; they leave out the words, "in any way exposed above the table." They do not profess to say that there is any contradiction in the phrases "on or above the table." They do not pretend that above the table is surplusage, and by all the rules of law they are bound to put a reasonable construction upon the phrases as they stand. To our thinking, exposing a card above the table can only mean placing a card in such a position that the partner may see it. The words "in any way" clearly show that the law makers had in their minds *more than one way*, but J. C. and Cavendish do not admit even one way.

The words are sufficiently strong to cover the case of a card exposed by any agency above the table. To include in fact the tricks of Herr Frikel, the supernatural of Mr. Home, and the semi-scientific and semi-supernatural of Mr. Serjeant Cox. Mr. Clay introduces another subject. He was one of the committee who framed the laws, and he knows what the committee meant. No argument can be more fallacious. Because an attorney draws a deed, it does not follow that the draughtsman has carried out the intentions of his client. The drawer of the deed is not under such circumstances the best judge of his own handiwork. Nor can any man speak with authority as to what a committee meant. This is perhaps not worthy of consideration, because whatever they meant we can only judge of their views by what they have said, not by what they thought or what they intended to express.

Cavendish again introduces another subject, and, to our thinking, far too often. He is always finding out Whist offences which can only be punished by social ostracism. This is a penalty to be used only as a last resource. In Whist communities no committee would eject a man for showing his cards above the table, unless the object were to cheat, and if the object in the case before us was to cheat, what becomes of Cavendish's argument as to social ostracism? The object of Whist law, he has said, is not to prevent cheating, but does he mean that if a player cheated and won, that the losers would be obliged to pay because the law is silent on the subject?

The fact that Cavendish consulted Mr. Clay, and that they both agree on the point at first sight, makes the decision of more importance than would attach to the judgment of either, but reflection will show this is scarcely so. If Cavendish had not a doubt on the subject he would not have gone to Mr. Clay. To our thinking the matter is not to be decided by authority at all. In the construction of the English language there is no reason why Messrs. Clay and Cavendish should be better judges than A, B or C, and if the meaning of the words is to be ascertained by the ordinary principles of law, then we have shown that those gentlemen have forgotten the first and most obvious principles.

There is no occasion to introduce the subject of detached cards, but assuredly it never was supposed that the detached card could be seen by the partner, or no distinction could have been made between the detached and the exposed card. It is much better to keep to the point at issue, and that is simply, if A shows his cards to his partner, has he or has he not exposed them on or above the table?

The argument that it is no Whist offence to show your cards to your partner, because it is so difficult to define the offence, is merely begging the question. It is of course easy to see that a player might so lower his cards that we might doubt whether he had lowered them so far that his partner could see them, but we are not on a question of difficulty of proof. The fact is admitted; and given the fact, we want the remedy. We do not let off the thief because it was difficult to define his offence, and difficult to convict him. The point at issue appears to us entirely missed by both Mr. Clay and Cavendish. What is wanted is a definition of a card exposed above the table, and here both those gentlemen are silent. We should have preferred to wait for Mogul's reply before commenting on the subject, but we think our readers would have reason to complain if we did not protest at the earliest moment against this monstrous decision.

DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEMS.

No. LVIII. By F. H. Lewis.

A's Hand.—H Ace, Kg, 8, 6; C 8, 6, 2; D Ace, Kv; S Kv, 10, 8, 4.

X's Hand.—H Q, 10; C Q, 9; D Kg, 9, 8, 7, 3, 2; S Kg, 9, 3.

B's Hand.—H 9, 7, 2; C Ace, Kg, Kv, 7, ; D 10, 6, 5, 4; S Ace, Q.

Z's Hand.—H Kv, 5, 4, 3; C 10, 5, 4, 3; D Q; S 7, 6, 5, 2.

Hearts trumps.—A to lead and A and B to make five by cards.

HAND No. LIX.

A's Hand.—H Ace, K, 8; C Kv, 6, 4; D Kv, 10, 8, 5; S Kv, 3, 2.

X's Hand.—H 10, 9, 7, 4, 3; C 9, 2; S Ace, 4; D Ace, 7, 6, 3.

B's Hand.—H Kv, 5; C Ace, K, 5, 3; D K, 9, 2; S K, 10, 6, 5.

Z's Hand.—H Q, 6, 2; D Q, 4; S Q, 9, 8, 7; C Q, 10, 8, 7.

Hearts trumps.—A to lead, A and B to win the odd trick.

Variation—Either X or Z to lead, and win the odd trick.

WHIST MARKERS.

Messrs Jones and De La Rue, have patented a new Whist marker. From its description we fancy we saw the model some time ago. It consists of two slots turning on a pivot, the Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 on the bottom slot are exposed as desired by moving the top dial. The idea is a good one, and we trust the designers will take care to have the Marker brought out in a substantial form and sufficiently large. A good Marker is we are

sure wanted. It was only the obstinacy of the inventors that prevented Messrs. De La Rue and Cavendish making a small fortune out of the last Marker (a matter to them apparently of no consequence); but if they bring out Markers for the love of their species why not give us what we want, instead of something we do not want. The extra good people are always a nuisance. We do not doubt their intentions, but the sweets they give are always bitter. To those interested in the subject we may add the patent is dated December 17th 1870, No. 3303.

Messrs. Willis have forwarded us their Patent Self Scoring Marker. It is made in the form of 2 clock faces, the large hand marks the score up to 10, and when it goes past the 10 the small hand marks a game; but according to this Marker game 1 is a single, 2 a double, and game 3 a treble. We confess we do not see how this works, and it is in our opinion of no use. We apprehend the inventor forgot that another hand was wanted to carry out his idea. We hope that if ever the happy time arrives when our Whist code is revised, it will be obligatory on players to score their games. The Bezique Marker of Messrs. Willis seems to us better adapted for its purpose. The price, 6d, 9d, and 1s each is very moderate.

GAME RIDDLES.

1. Which card in the pack are jewellers always afraid of?—The "Knave of Diamonds."
2. At Whist, which player is sure to make a trick?—The "Odd Trump."
3. How do monkeys learn games of skill?—By ape-ing them a little.
4. Who is the distinguished spinster that makes careless blunders at Whist?—"Miss-Deal."
5. Which Club should the "Ravens" join?—"The Croquet (croaky) Club."

"THE LADYE AND THE CAPTAYNE."

THERE was an old lady at Bath,
As thin and as dry as a lath,
She walked in the way
Of—Whist every day—
A very respectable path.

There was also a Captain, from town,
Who to take the Bath waters came down;—
He'd play Whist, and smile,
And talk all the while,
At which the old Lady did frown.

The Captain abjured melancholy,
And said, he considered it folly;
He punned, and he chaffed,
And chatted and laughed,
And pronounced himself "awfully jolly."

Each *bet* that he made did he land:—
He'd five or six Trumps in each hand.
He thought a revoke
Was a capital joke,
And at once put it down to "the Band."

And when the last rubber was done,
He cried, "This is glorious fun,
"We've managed to play
"In an excellent way,
"For 'tis only by Tricks we have won!"

Old Lady said, "Nonsense, and stuff,"
(And she cut up exceedingly rough);
"Well, mercy upon us,
"If you haven't *had* Honors,
"You've *scored* them, Sir, often enough!"

Said he, "If you say so, 'tis true;
"No doubt we *have* counted a few;
"But there's *one* whose amount
"*I never could* count—
"The honor of playing with *you*."

Old Lady, becoming quite wrath,
Retired to her own private hearth;
For her Rubber she burned,
But she never returned
Till the Captain departed from Bath.

V. R.

ANOTHER OLD JOE.

THERE live a set of Whist players, who delight
Into one's ears continually to din,
How *dreadful* is their luck! they *never* win,
Lose—lose—lose—*every* night.

One of this sort, a discontented frump,
Spoke thus to me: "*Un*luckiest I of men,
"I played last night from seven, till half-past ten,
"And never held a trump!"

St. James's, 1871.

A stranger, sitting near, and doubtless feeling
Indignant at a fib so bare-faced, rose
And said, "Excuse me, Sir, but I suppose
"You took your *turn* at dealing!"

This the reply: "Tho' you've no right to chime, Sir,
In—with a strictly *private* conversation,
"This is my answer to your observation,
"I *mis-dealt* every time, Sir!"

V. R.

BEZIQUE AT MENAI.

Two maidens went out to the sea-skirted wood,
For the weather was bright and hot;
Soon seated themselves, in a shadowy spot,
Where no one would care to intrude;
And began to seek
In a game of Bezique,
Fair phases of fortune's mood.
Both freely declared,
When royal folk paired,
Or sequences came to their lot.

These gay maidens grew so intent on their game,
They knew not three urchins drew nigh;
Who eagerly hunted, with foot, hand, and eye,
For sly, prowling crabs,
Swift sand-eels or dabs—
In costume which had been exempted from blame,
When dear mother Eve,
Hadn't learnt to believe,
That nature was natural shame.

But quickly these urchins our maidens espied;
Soon huddled their rags on their limbs.
And wondering what were the feminine whims,
Clomb up the steep bank
And stood in a rank,
To question, to quiz, and deride.
For never I wean,
Those urchins had seen,
Such toys as the damsels divide.

At last a rough red-head of mercantile turn,
Conceived an immaculate thought,
And offered a maiden the crab he had caught
If he might command
E'en part of her hand—
Or the *clock* that scored points she could earn;
She heedless his pain
Frowned, black with disdain;
Oh, how could she such offer spurn.

Yet stout heart ne'er faints though a lady be coy,—
So, though she held double Bezique,
The score of a winner t'were useless to seek,
For that artless impetuous boy
Must needs have a kiss,
Or failing of this,
His arm round her slim waist deploy—
And one instant hold
In amorous fold
His centre of passionate joy.

As red as the rose, which is reddest in June,
Flashed a flush on that proud maiden's cheek;
Her rage grew so hot, that it burned her to speak—
Her words were like fractional tune
Some deaf man grinds out
Who turns, without doubt,
An organ whose music is strewn.
While belched by her friend
Screams hasted to blend,
As of hound baying mad at the moon.

Sir red-head's two comrades were following suit,
When one, who'd been hovering near,
Must needs round a corner, not distant, appear
The right of the rogues to refute.
And when they were fled,
Why gossips have said,
The maiden was passive and mute;
She never once frowned
When arms circled round,
To shield from the mannerless brute.

The cards were forgotten, for who cares to wed
Mere phantoms of royal estate,
When they're in good earnest invited to mate,
Where fancy their fortune hath led.
And the red-headed lad
She'd reckoned so bad
Was hated, with qualified hate;
Nay, some say, he learned
Her thanks had been earned,
By tipping the beam of her fate.

ROBT. B. HOLT.

REVISION OF THE LAWS OF CROQUET.

WE understand that this vexed question is at length settled on a satisfactory basis. A joint committee of the All England and Grand National Clubs is to receive the votes of the Secretaries of Clubs, as to any alterations which they may think necessary, and classify and arrange these in the New Code. As this falls in with the views we have persistently advocated in these columns, we have only to express our satisfaction at the result.

REVIEW.

HINTS ON CROQUET.*

THIS is an honest, pleasantly-written book, which gives, in an unaffected style, as much as the writer understands about Croquet. We mean no harm to the book when we say this is at present not a great deal. The little volume before us shows much more acquaintance with the doctrine of forces as applied to Croquet than it

* By O. M. F. CANTAB. Jaques and Son. 1871.

does with the game itself. But it explains the theory of the "stop" and "pushing" strokes, and those strokes in which an intermediate action is used, in a plain and lucid manner, and in such a way that the theory once mastered can be easily reduced to practice; and for this reason it is well worth reading, and we can conscientiously recommend it to beginners. It is however only fair to state that it is to a great extent a mathematical treatise, and shows a good deal of ignorance of the "tactics" as pursued by the best players. These can neither be mastered by dissertation, nor yet can they be evolved from the inner consciousness of a man. Also we should have been more pleased with the book if the writer had held to known and easily-intelligible terms, instead of substituting something of his own. There is no reason why he should call "splitting strokes" "glancing strokes," and it only tends to hide his meaning to do so. When he speaks of the Rules he is evidently not acquainted with the present state of things, as he talks of an All England code, which is not in existence. It is in fact unfair to the All England Club to make such a statement, as that society very properly accepted the body of laws drawn up by the secretaries of clubs, who were called together in 1870 by the Grand National Croquet Club. With respect to the management of the balls, the writer is very clear and concise in his description of the manner in which they should be struck to bring them into play, but seems to have but little notion of the "combinations" afterwards used by first-rate players in making their long breaks. He does not appear to understand the "three-ball," and to be entirely ignorant of the "four-ball" game. "It is quite useless (he writes), when contending against a good player, to make as many hoops as you can, chancing the position of friends and adversaries at the end of your turn; in fact you must make your hoops quite a secondary consideration, and must play to keep your adversaries at a distance, and your friends together. Directly the next playing adversary gets unpleasantly near, you must send him away again." Well, this is the old tiresome, retarding system, which is only seen with players of the second and third order, and does not always answer with them. When the writer goes on to say, "These tactics *must* be adoped against good players," he is entirely wide of his mark. Good players, directly they get three balls into play, try to make a break with them, without considering whether one of the balls is the next player or not. It is only a third-rate player who immediately, and under all circumstances, dismisses the next playing ball. Again, the difference between a first-rate and second-rate player is, that the latter, though always attempting a break from three balls, will, if one of them happens to be the one playing next, get rid of it on the first good opportunity, and pick up the "dead" ball instead, whereas the first-rate player will omit no chance of getting and keeping all four balls in play. The principle of perpetually "separating" and "dismissing" is exceedingly retrogressive, and makes Croquet a dull game. Young players should, on the contrary, be encouraged to "play the game," that is, boldly to attempt all strokes which are reasonably easy, whether they are playing on the next player or not. It is by this means that good players make short work of the game, and the mere pottering system of keeping the enemy at a distance, without going on with the game, can only succeed with an adversary equally ignorant of the game.

Notwithstanding the writer's failure in this part of his subject, the book is certainly useful for its clear statement of the theory of splitting strokes, which is the best we have seen. This is a question which must be mastered by every one who wishes to succeed at Croquet, and it is also one in which theory conduces to practice, and very properly precedes it.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CHESS.

"THE WESTMINSTER PAPERS" PROBLEM TOURNEY.—Problems received. 3. Who won the battle of Waterloo? 4. *Ich strebe bis ich sterbe.*

E. J. L.—We are sorry to have troubled you. The notice should have been struck out, for we discovered the variation you so kindly supply before publication, and indeed the problem appeared in our last number.

J. H. T. AND G. DYSON.—Your letters and enclosures have been handed to the judges.

J. O. H. T.—You were not anticipated in this country at all events, and even the "Pontiffs of Caissa" do not appear to have entered so fully into the position as you have done. Your contributions will always be welcome. Send us a copy of your "Chess column."

A. BURNS (Melbourne).—Many thanks for your interesting letter. The files of the *Leader* come regularly to hand, and we trust the *Westminster Papers* reach you with equal punctuality.

J. C. W.—We have replied through the post, furnishing you with the name of a gentleman fully qualified for the office of a Chess teacher.

F. S. E. (Minich).—We are glad to observe that "Egypt's awful flood" has not quenched your attachment for the game. Write from Thebes by all means.

DESDECHADO.—1. Solutions correct. 2. We know of no work on Draughts which is not merely elementary. For contemporary play we should recommend the Monthly Supplement of the *Gentleman's Journal* (Harrison, Fleet Street, E.C.), or the columns of the following newspapers: New York—*Turf, Field and Farm*, and the *Clipper*; Canada—*Western Advertiser*, London, Ontario.

J. B.—We never see the "pot-house publication," and we have never heard of such a composer, but the position you send, No. 1, appears in Koch's *Codex* part 3 (1834), with some pieces omitted from your copy, and is, we have good grounds for believing, pillaged from Stamma (1741), therefore certainly not 300 years old. No. 2. Ascribed to Damiano does not appear in any of the several editions of that bold highwayman's work that we have seen. No. 3. No doubt the Editor is, to use your own words, "a capable person." We believe him to be capable of anything!—good. Does that satisfy you?

G. E. B.—Look at this. 1 Kt to Q B 5. 2 Kt to R 6. 3 Kt to Kt 4. 4 K to B sq. 5 Kt takes P mate.

J. W.—Many thanks. If in the position referred to White plays K to R 2, Black answers R takes Kt dis ch, and mates next move.

J. A. R. (Dublin).—A very interesting game, but too late for our present number. Who is "Lintscrawl?" We do not know when the next contest for the British Chess Association Challenge Cup will take place. That is a delicious little secret which has not been confided to "outsiders," but we are quite certain that you are eligible to compete for it, and we believe you can even challenge the holder to "stand, and deliver" or undergo the pleasing pain of playing with you. Perhaps that is your best course. Address—G. W. Medley, Esq., Westminster Chess Club, Adelphi Terrace, W.C.

J. M. (Brighton).—Much obliged for your letter and enclosures. We do not consider "difficulty" an essential quality in a problem by any means; although, of course, it greatly increases its merit. No. 1.—This class of problem is almost invariably unsound, and yours is no exception: *e. g.*—

1 Q to K B sq 1 K to Q 2 best.

For if 1 K to Q 4, White mates by 2 Q to Q B 4.

2 Q to B 7 ch 2 K moves

3 Q mates

No. 2 shews "better form," and appears in this number.

E. Delmar (Brooklyn).—We are obliged for your courtesy in forwarding your paper, and the "exchange" shall have our best attention. Have we lost our friend the *Index?*

J. L. (Dublin).—Always glad to hear from you, and the game is very acceptable, but our number was made up when it reached us. Next month.

C. F. G.—We are much obliged for the games, but there are at present too many demands upon our space to print all in the same number. Some next month.

Rusticus writes as follows:—"As enigmas are propounded to edify Chess Players, I beg to contribute one for solution by the learned members of our confraternity. A gentleman playing with a lady gave check with his Rook, she interposed her Bishop, and so the matter stood for several moves, but he afterwards moved his King to a square where the lady's Bishop, if he had not been detained on special duty, might have captured him. The lady objected to his placing his King in check, but he insisted that as the Bishop was unable to move he was a 'dead man'—that the objection to placing your King in check depends entirely on the assumption that he may be captured by the antagonist piece, and therefore that the objection fails if the antagonist piece cannot capture him! The players thereupon 'agreed to differ!' I think it was ungallant. I am glad to say that the gentleman had the worst of the game—I hope the lady may beat him whenever they play, but—was he right or wrong in his contention? The point appears to be what legal gentlemen call a 'casus omissus.' Lewis after stating what constitutes checkmate says, 'For the object of the Game is to checkmate the adversary's King, and not to take all the pieces as in Draughts.' Evidently he implies that the King when mated is considered to be taken, although inasmuch as 'a Divinity doth hedge a King,' and out of respect for fallen greatness he is not actually removed from the Board! Now if the game depends on the capture of the adverse King, why may he not occupy any position where he cannot be captured? The lady's Bishop could not strike a blow without exposing his own liege Lord to instant annihilation by the broadside of that terrible three decker, the Rook. The game never intended the mutual and simultaneous destruction of two Sovereign powers—such a result is too painful to contemplate! I have relieved my mind by the expression of my moral indignation, and my intellectual bewilderment; and I appeal to you for a reasonable and philosophical solution of my conundrum. It appears to me nearly as important, metaphysically considered, as the Schoolmen's question 'Whether is the better, an actual man or a possible angel?'" —Is there an Œdipus among our readers willing to encounter this rural Sphynx? Even in the event of failure he will escape the risk incurred by his Theban prototype, for we are assured that *our* Sphynx is a very amiable "monster" indeed.

R. F. should not date his letters from Stirling when he posts them at Clapham. 1. Speaking by the card, you are right. Mr. Steinitz did not win the match with Mr. Deacon by the games. Time, that is said to conquer all things, conquered Mr. Deacon; but, for all that, we should "back" Steinitz against "Father Antic" and his Captive both. 2. We do not know, but presume that he is discharging "diaconal functions," instead of playing Chess, and we are very sorry for it. We know he plays at a private club at Kensington.

O. A. Brownson. — We have acknowledged your kind favour through the post.

WHIST.

P. H. N. (Manchester).—If a card in dealing fall below the table, and the dealer requests one of his opponents to pick it up, who does so, and places it on the table inadvertently face upwards, is the dealer entitled to a fresh deal?—*Ans.* We think not. The dealer requests one of his opponents to pick up the card. This opponent becomes thereby the dealer's agent, and for his carelessness the dealer is responsible. We think the case does not come within the rule which allows the dealer to have a fresh deal because one of his adversaries exposes a card.

C. B. and M.—The Whist Table is full. B has played one rubber and is entitled to play another. He leaves the room without any intimation that he is not going to play again, and A, C and D cut for partners. X, who is not in the table, is asked by these three to cut for B, which he does, and A and B become partners; A deals, and turns up the trump card. The hands are sorted, and all await B's return. B is sent for, and it is then ascertained that he has left the house. What is to be done? A contends that the deal must stand, and that X must take B's place. Others contend that X not being in the table, one of the 2 sitters out is entitled to take B's place. Whilst C and D contend that A and B must pay the points.—*Ans.* It seems to us that what took place was done under a misconception, not of one but of the whole party, and that for this all were alike in fault. We think the cut and deal must therefore be annulled. It cannot be said that B authorised any one to cut for him, and because of the others' mistake it is obvious B cannot be made to pay. X was a mere machine in the matter, and might or might not know one card from another. Would A, in the latter case, insist on his right to have X.

Inquirer—Apply (1) to the Secretary, Westminster Chess Club, Caledonian Hotel, Adelphi Terrace. (2) Manager Westminster Club, Albemarle Street. (3) Secretary Portland Club.

Dr. N.—Read J. C's Treatise and Cavendish on Whist. Matthews Treatise is in Bohn's Handbook.

O. T.—The exposed card must be left on the table. It is bad taste to take it up, besides being bad in law.

M. A. Camb. —We never held that if a player placed his hand in such a position that his partners could see the cards that such cards were not callable. We decided that if he shewed his hand to his adversary there was no penalty because it could do the adversary no injury to see the cards. The point you refer to is under discussion in the "Field," and you will find our comments upon it on another page.

Spring.—It is not a question of Etiquette. It is dishonesty in its least adulterated form.

H. E.—A revoke,

L. G. W.—No.

W. M.—By all means.

Dr. W.—The point shall receive full consideration. At present we are not able to make up our minds upon it.

C.—Five persons have been engaged playing Whist. At the conclusion they cut who should pay for supper. The drawer of the lowest card to pay. A draws an Ace, the others 2, 3, 4, 5. Who pays? Is the Ace highest or lowest at the game "Cutting for Supper."—*Ans.* The game being an unknown game, and possessing therefore no laws, the case must be decided by the rules of the game supposed to be uppermost in the thoughts of the players, that is the game of "Whist," and as the Ace in cutting is lowest at Whist A must pay. We hope he did so gracefully, and that the point raised was only for the amusement of his friends.

The Westminster Papers.

1st FEBRUARY 1872.

THE CHESS WORLD.

"The whisperings of our petty burgh."

In the events of the past month, so far as the home department of our "petty world" is concerned, there is little or nothing calling for special observation.

Mr. Blackburne's blindfold performances are now "familiar in our mouths," and when we write that on the 9th ult. he displayed his prowess against eight members of the Railway Clearing House Chess Club, our readers will *not* be surprised to hear that he won seven games and drew the remaining one. If we had eyes or memory for details such as that and those possessed by the old writer, who, recording the fact that his Majesty hunted yesterday, added, "And perspired less than usual," then should our readers know of the ease, we might even say indifference, with which the most complex combinations were conceived and matured on the part of the blindfold player—of the enthusiastic admiration of the gallery, and something also of a promise to favour us with the names of the gentlemen who opposed Mr. Blackburne on this occasion. Of all this however our readers must now remain in ignorance. As ignorant, it may be, as the Chess editor of the *Illustrated News* is of problem tourneys in England, or as that paper's correspondent appears to be of his "relatives and antecedents."*

The brief yet burning course of the Clifton Chess Club is ended, but we trust that "of its high hopes the richest history" is looming in the future, under its new title, the Clifton and Bristol Chess Association. If history repeats itself may we be there to see, for the first incident to be recorded in the career of the new club is a soirée, held at the Fine Arts Academy, Clifton. Nearly a hundred ladies and gentlemen were present on the occasion, and the proceedings appear to have been of the most "interesting character."

The Caissa Correspondence Club has issued its first annual report, from which we learn that eleven games have been begun and finished during the year, and that there are thirteen games in various stages of progress. Although the club numbers only twelve members, and the subscription is but half a guinea, its finances have been so well managed that a surplus is carried over to the new year. In a quiet unobtrusive way the club is doing good service in the cause of Chess, and we hope it will receive the support and encouragement it so well deserves. Two of the games referred to above shall appear in our next number, and will be found to possess more than average interest.

The action and enterprise for which the men of Lancashire are pre-eminent in commerce are conspicuous qualities in Lancashire Chess. The frequent matches between the clubs of Liverpool and Manchester appear to have caused a great revival of the old interest for Chess in both towns, but especially in Liverpool.

The annual handicap tournament of the Liverpool Chess Club is now in full progress, and 31 members are taking part in it.

In referring to the Lancashire matches last month, we stated that Mr. Werner had been victorious over Mr. Burn in last year's encounter, as well as in the late one. This we find is not the case, Mr. Burn in 1870 having scored his game against Mr. Werner.

The *Weekly Star*, a paper published in Glasgow, at what Mr. Tigg would call the absurdly low price of one halfpenny, has commenced a Chess column. The number we have seen contains a well-edited game between Mr. Fraser, of Dundee, and another amateur, and a problem from *La Stratégie*. On this latter point we have only to observe that while Scotland possesses a composer like Master Hunter, of Edinburgh, she need not go to France for her problems. We hope the *Weekly Star* may shine through a long course of prosperity.

Chess in Canada possesses an able advocate in the *Western Advertiser* (London, Ontario), and we have pleasure in directing the attention of European composers to the second problem tourney just announced by that paper. The conditions of the tourney are precisely the same as those of our own, except that a competitor may send more than three problems; he may, in fact, send as many as he pleases. Three prizes are offered, the first being 10 dollars, the second 5 dollars, and a third prize consisting of copies of the *Western Advertiser* free for one year, will be given to the competitor sending the greatest number of sound problems. Problems will be received up to the 15th April 1872, and should be addressed to the Chess Editor of the *Western Advertiser*, London, Ontario, Canada.

In our last Number we briefly announced the result of the Second American Chess Congress, which was

* See the Editor's note to a letter signed Q.R.P. in the *Illustrated News* of the 29th December. It is very clear, to use an old joke, that whatever he may think of Q.R.P.'s "relatives," the Editor is confounded by his correspondent's "antecedents."

opened at Cleveland on the 13th of December last. Mr. Mackenzie's play appears to have excited the greatest admiration, and by the American Press he has been hailed King of Chess, without a single dissentient. The following account of the distribution of the prizes, and termination of the proceedings, is taken from the *Hartford Times*:—

THE WESTERN CHESS TOURNAMENT.

The final set-to in the regular series of games at the Chess Congress closed yesterday, Mr. Hosmer, of Chicago, winning both his games of Mr. Max Judd, and thereby carrying off the second prize. This closed the work of the Congress, and at five o'clock the committee and the players met, in a pleasant reunion for the distribution of prizes. They were awarded as follows:—

First prize, 100 dols. G. H. Mackenzie, New York; second prize, 50 dols. H. Hosmer, Chicago; third prize, 40 dols. F. H. Elder, Detroit; fourth prize, 35 dols. Max Judd, Cleveland: fifth prize, 30 dols. P. Ware, jun. Boston; sixth prize, 20 dols. H. D. Smith, Michigan; seventh prize, 15 dols. H. Harding, Michigan.

SECOND CLASS.—First prize, 30 dols. E. L. Goddard; second prize, 20 dols. E. D. Stark.

The prizes having been presented, the meeting passed a heartfelt resolution thanking Mr. McClasky, the genial host of the Kennard, for his many courtesies during the meeting, and then formally adjourned.

THE EXHIBITION AT LYMAN'S HALL.

In the evening the players and some two hundred invited guests assembled at Lyman's Hall, which had been neatly fitted up in handsome style, and presented a very pretty appearance. The main feature of the entertainment was the playing of ten simultaneous games by Captain Mackenzie against Mr. Harding, of Michigan, and nine members of the Cleveland Club. The ten Chess tables were ranged in a semi-circle, and the Captain, holding the interior line, passed from board to board, making one move on each game at every visit. The players opposed to the King of the Congress were as follows:—

First table, Mr. W. G. Yates; second table, J. S. White; third table, Bushnell White; fourth table, I. I. Judd; fifth table, H. Harding; sixth table, E. D. Stark; seventh table, O. B. Perdue; eighth table, C. Bauder; ninth table, E. L. Goddard; tenth table, Messrs. Russell and Adams.

To more than half of these players Captain Mackenzie gave the odds of a Knight, but so masterly was his play that he won eight of the games, losing one with Mr. Judd and drawing one with Mr. Stark. The spectators, including a number of ladies, were highly entertained, and the meeting was voted a most happy termination of the Congress. Besides the ten games above noted, Messrs. Judd and Elder played a consultation game against Messrs. Ware and Smith, which after two hour's play was drawn. Thus ends the Second National Congress of American Chess Players. The association being now permanently organised, will hold its next Congress a year hence, probably in New York. Until then Captain Mackenzie will remain in name, as he is in fact, the King of Chess in America.

As an example of Mr. Mackenzie's powers, and for the benefit of competitors in tourneys elsewhere, it should be recorded that he lost the first tournament game to Mr. Elder, of Detroit, won the second, and played a drawn game of 74 moves on each side, with the same tough antagonist, all in one day! Let that day shine out—Tuesday, the 12th of December 1871.

Our American friends have not yet "buried the hatchet," for, following close upon the campaign at Cleveland, a proposal appears in the *Clipper* to get up a tournament in New York at an early date. Mr. Leiders, of that city, has offered to give a hundred dollars towards the formation of a prize fund, and we have no doubt —for our cousins never do anything by halves—that his example will be quickly followed.

These are good times for problem composers. The *Dubuque Chess Journal* announces its fourth problem tourney. Five prizes are offered, but for the details we refer our readers to the January number, and we do so for their own advantage, because no problem composer should be without the *Dubuque Chess Journal.*

We observe that some of our American friends still refer to the Chess column in the *Field* as edited by Mr. Boden. That gentleman's connection with the *Field* ceased in March 1870.

We are indebted to a private correspondent for the following account of a set of Political Chess-pieces lately exhibited at Munich: — At a recent meeting of the *Munich-Kunst-Verein*, Mr. Perron exhibited a Political Chess-board and men, manufactured by himself. The pieces represent, in capital likenesses, the leading personages of the last war. On one side the German Emperor and Empress, the Crown Prince, Bismarck, Moltke, Prince Frederick Charles, &c., and on the opposite side the Emperor Napoleon, the Empress Eugenie, Thiers, Gambetta, &c. The Pawns represent Prussian Uhlans, and Turcos, Spahis, &c. The four Rooks represent, in symbolical figures, the fortresses, Strasbourg, Metz, Mayence and Rastadt.

CHESS PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

ENGLAND . . .	*Land and Water* (London).
SCOTLAND . . .	*Weekly Star* (Glasgow).
FRANCE	*La Stratégie*, *L'Univers Illustre*, and *L'Illustration.*
GERMANY . . .	*Schachzeitung* (Leipsic).
AUSTRIA	*Salonblatt* (Vienna).
UNITED STATES .	*Spirit of the Times; Turf, Field and Farm; Clipper* (New York); *City of Brooklyn* (Brooklyn); *Hartford Times* (Hartford, Conn.); *Chess Journal* (Dubuque, Iowa).
CANADA	*Western Advertiser* (London, Ontario); *Globe* (Toronto).
AUSTRALIA . . .	*Town and Country Journal* (Sydney); *Australasian* and the *Leader* (Melbourne); and the *Observer* (Adelaide).

LAWS OF CHESS.

ENIGMA BY "RUSTICUS."

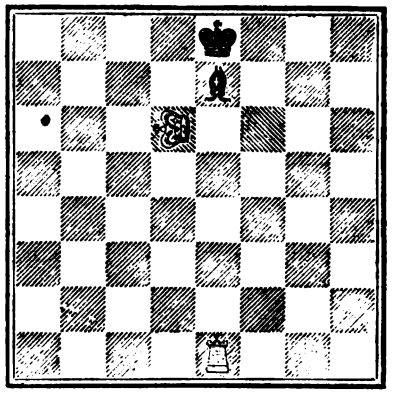
To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—It is not easy to solve the "enigma" of "Rusticus," propounded at page 170 of your January number. It appears to have a double solution, and the question raised is important. I hope that, if I have broken down in my conclusion, you will, in a spirit of gallantry, take the lady's side, and give us the true solution.

The following diagram will serve to illustrate the position—the turned type showing the last move made by the gentleman, viz.:—
31. *K to Q 6*, the one under discussion.

WHITE.	BLACK.
Gentleman's.	Lady's
30. R to K sq ch	30. B to K 2
31. *K to Q 6*	

BLACK.



WHITE.

Position after White's 31st move.

The whole question appears to turn upon the interpretation of the word *check*. The laws of the British Chess Association do not give a definition of the term. Mr. Staunton's "Praxis," page 6, says:—"A King is said to be 'in check' when he is on a square *attacked* by an adverse man." * * * "A King must never move into check."

When, then, is a square *attacked?* Page 5 says:—"Every man *attacks*, checks and guards the squares on which he could *legally* capture an adverse man, from the position he occupies."

It would seem, then, that as the Bishop in the foregoing diagram cannot move, the King is *not* in check.

SOLUTION OF ENIGMA.

The gentleman appears to be right, according to *law*, but the lady according to *custom*, or practice of the game.

Moral.—If then my solution be correct, the sooner the law is made to embody the custom the better. I would respectfully suggest that a general meeting of Chess-players be summoned by some leading Club, like the "Westminster," to pass some such rule as the following to meet the case, viz.:—

A King is said to be in check when he is on a square attacked by an adverse man, *even if that man cannot be moved by reason of discovering check.*

Opportunity might also be taken, at that meeting, to appoint some Club to act for British and Irish Chess Clubs in respect to altering the Chess Code, in the same way that the "Marylebone" Club does in revising Cricket rules when necessary. I remain, dear Sir, yours very truly, CIVIS.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—Having been hitherto accustomed to suppose Chess to be—

> "Not harsh and crabbed, as dull fools suppose,
> But musical, as is Apollo's lute,"

I confess that your odd correspondent, "Rusticus," has somewhat disarranged my ideas on the subject. If the fundamental laws of the game are indeed unsettled, after so many centuries of practice, who can say what untoward consequences may result? It is an old tale how the late Archbishop of Canterbury—long, indeed, before he attained that eminent position—so lost his temper in a dispute with the afterwards almost equally eminent Sydney Smith, as to knock him down with the Chess board. Wishing therefore to avoid such temptations, I divested my mind of that natural sympathy for the lady which "Rusticus" appears to have felt so strongly, and I approached the subject with the respect due to its intrinsic importance. The question submitted is this—*White King being checked by the Rook, and his Bishop interposing, can Black King, pending the "status quo ante," place himself within range of the White Bishop?*

It appeared to me that, inasmuch as the Rook cannot capture the White King until after the Bishop has moved, the Bishop, moving first, must gain the start of his antagonist, and would capture the Black King before the Rook can move; just as if two archers had simultaneously drawn their arrows to the head, and one shaft were loosed the twentieth part of a second before the other, it would reach the target first. And I therefore concluded, although "*Davus sum non Œdipus*," that your rustic friend has no good ground for supposing that the Black King is justified in taking up such a position.

Unfortunately however, in that state of self-exaltation which attends the solution of a question so important, I mentioned my views of the matter to a respected gentleman of Johnsonian intellect, and as he does not see *The Westminster Papers*, I will add, of Johnsonian manners also, enforcing my view by the illustration of the archers, which I considered conclusive. His pleasant reply was as follows:—"Sir. you are labouring under a

delusion! There is *no* analogy between Bows and Arrows and Bishops and Rooks. Sir, you are mistaken. See now where you have landed yourself; you make it a question of time. So, if your Rook has to traverse two squares and your Bishop five, your Rook would make the capture first, although he started last."

I was silenced—"sat upon" in fact—and whispering a deprecatory "True, sir, that never occurred to me," I returned home, vowing I would never again argue with that terrible old gentleman. I went to bed, and—

"A sadder and a wiser man
I rose that morrow's morn!"

But, oh, that night! The clock ticked loud; I heard it strike one, two, three, four, five, and then—"Blessed be the man who invented sleep," as Sancho says—I suddenly remembered that consoling philosophic maxim of one—I forget which—of the seven sages of Greece—

"There's nothing new!
And there's nothing true!
And—it don't signify!"

And I fell asleep, but only to dream that I was a gigantic Chess-man—a kind of hybrid between a Rook and a Bishop—moving on a Chess board of ice too thin to bear my weight. SUBURBAN.

P.S.—Whilst on the subject of Chess, I may mention a fact not generally known, viz., that the celebrated author of "Hudibras" (a book now forgotten, but of which copies exist in the library of the British Museum and the Bodleian at Oxford) was celebrated as a Chess player. Witness his pathetic lines in Canto 15, 1st Edition—

"Ah, me, what perils circumambit,
The wight who plays the Danish Gambit!"

This is the more remarkable, because an unfounded notion has got abroad that this Gambit is of modern invention, whereas the above extract furnishes proof that it was known and practised in the time of Cromwell.

DUMMY PAWNS IN PROBLEMS.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Abbott's solution to the problem given in his letter, published in your January part is, I presume,

1. Q to Q R 5	1. Kt to K sq
2. Q to K B 5	2. K takes Q
3. B mates	

The leading thought is similar to that of Mr. Loyd in the problem given by Mr. Barbier in your December part, viz., a sacrifice of the Queen made less obvious by the interposition of a Knight. There is a difference in the treatment, but, on the whole, I think Mr. Abbott's version of the idea quite as good as Mr. Loyd's.

Mr. Abbott however calls his a "little problem," while M. Barbier speaks of Mr. Loyd's as a "most beautiful problem."

The difference between them is the result of the additional labour bestowed on his position by Mr. Loyd, in evolving from it three variations diverse in character, and yet very nearly equal to his original thought.

This labour is not compulsory. There is nothing to prevent a composer finishing his problem at the stage illustrated by Mr. Abbott, and giving it to the world with what conditions he pleases as regards "Dummy Pawns," &c., but the Chess world will, I apprehend, always prefer problems like that of Mr. Loyd, where no such conditions are necessary.

Mr. Abbott and M. Barbier both seem to think little of a natural position. It is true it is a secondary point, but an artist will try to make his compositions perfect in every point. Why should a composer grudge the labour of putting his ideas into a graceful form? They will live all the longer for it.

Yours truly, E. F.

TOURNEY PROBLEMS RECEIVED.

1. "Con Amore."
2. "Muchas Gracias."
3. "Who won the battle of Waterloo?"
4. "Ich strebe bis ich sterbe."
5. "I saw him fling the stone, as if he meant
At once his murder and his monument."
6. "Gregory, remember thy swashing blow!"
7. "Nec Omnis Moriar."
8. "Major Optima ferat."
9. "The Westminster Chimes."
10. "Qui Perd Peche."
11. "Too many cooks."

We take this opportunity of informing the competitors that we purpose giving, as a third prize, the set of four volumes of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

HORÆ DIVANIANÆ.

SCENE.—*Chess Room at the "Divan in the Strand."* CHARACTERS.—Mr. A., Mr. B., Mr. M., Mr. L.

A. Well, this is *precious* slow, I must confess;
M. The reason's plain enough—there is no Chess.
A. Where can L—e be? he won't turn up, I fear.
B. Talk of his Majesty—behold him here!
M. Now, come along, L—e, don't keep me all day,
My soul's in arms, and eager for the fray.
L. All right, my friend.
M. But it is not all right.
I'm ready to begin.
A. L—e won't show fight.
L. Oh, yes, he will! (*Sits down.*) Pawn to Queen's fourth, I say.
M. Come, now, that's cool. Why take first move, L—e?
L. Play!
M. Well, I suppose I must. I'll do the same.
L. And there!
M. And there!
L. And there!
M. I know his game!
L. You think you know it! Show me if you know!
M. L—e, I have that within which passeth show.
These but the trappings and the suits of—stay,
I must examine the position.
L. Play!
M. In that case, L—e, I simply move the King.
L. It's wonderful! He sees everything!
M. Now go on, L—e. There's not a jot or tittle
Of your game that I don't see.
L. Wait a little!

(*After a few moves.*)

M. L—e does not like it much—'tis true, 'tis pity.
L. Silence! My game is really very pretty.
M. He sought the Queen; but, lo! his boldness shock'd her;
L. No youngster now but deems himself a doctor.
M. You ought to move the Knight—you touched that man.
L. They say he cannot play. I say he can.
M. Come, move the Knight.
L. It would not pay expenses.
M. Mine eyes are made the fools of th' other senses.
What! play the Bishop, L—e?
L. Why not?
M. Oh, try it!
I've no objection in the world.
L. Be quiet!
M. Well, make some move, L—e; never fret or pine,
Polished in this game, in the next you'll shine.
L. You're a bad man! 'Tis very cruel—mind;
M. I must be cruel only to be kind.
My Castle's strength will laugh a siege to scorn,
And (*moving Rook*) L—e will wish he never had been born.
L. By Jove! he's got me. What a fool I am!
M. Yes—all your pretty chickens, and their—
L. D—n.
M. Come, time, L—e, time; your petty course is run.
L. Wait, wait!—there's something *pretty* to be done.
King moves—now, what do you do?
M. That depends.
Well, Pawn takes Pawn.
L. Knight checks; now, we are friends.

(*After a pause.*)

M. 'Tis too bad, L—e. "So foul and fair a day
I have not seen." I think he'll draw it.
L. Play!
M. I won't be hurried, L—e. Upon my word,
To draw a game like this is too absurd.
I like your style.
L. Acquired at your expense.
M. Such style as yours should not suggest offence.
L. Well, Chess is difficult—
M. Now, say no more,
I think we've heard the same remark before.
L. I say nothing.
M. But to your friends pray tell,
You play not wisely, but play much too well.
The game is drawn, L—e.
L. All right. You are too strong;
You'll come to-morrow.
M. To doubt it does me wrong.
And from the poet one more line to borrow,
"To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow."

[*Exeunt omnes.*

NEW GAME.

THE BATTLE OF DORKING.*

THE Battle of Dorking is the title of a new game, illustrating the action of two opposing forces, assumed to be invaders and defenders, and is played on a board of 432 squares, with 5 officers and 23 men on the invading side, and 5 officers and 20 men on the other. The large area of the board, and the number of pieces em ployed on each side, make the game appear more difficult than it really is, for the powers of the pieces and rules for playing are so simple that they can be mastered by any intelligent person in half-an-hour. The game will be found a most amusing one, and an excellent recreation for the long evenings.

The Battle of Dorking. Snelling Brothers, 124 Houndsditch, London, E.

PROBLEMS.

PROBLEM No. LXXX.—By J. MENZIES.

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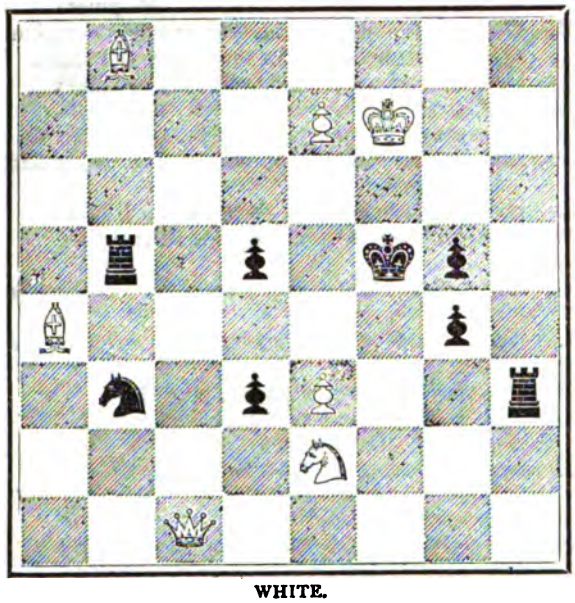

WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. LXXXI.—By J. A. W. HUNTER.

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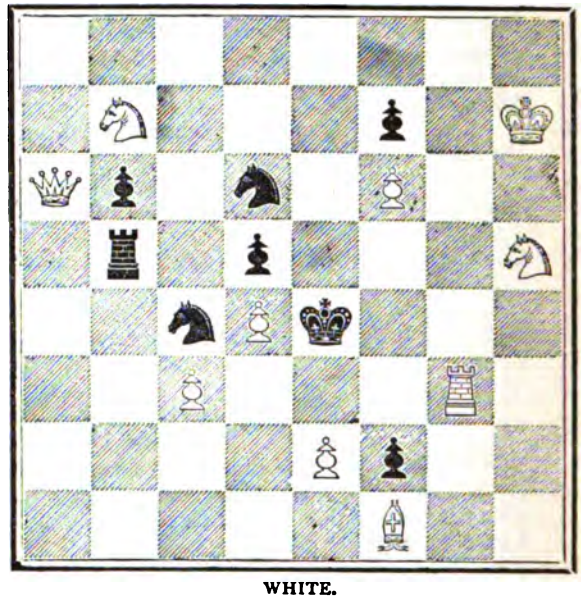

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. LXXXII.—By WM. C. COTTON.

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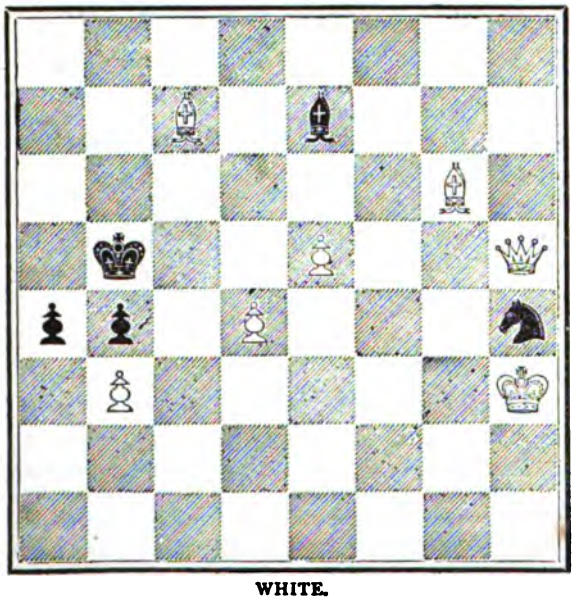

WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

No. LXXXIII.—By A. TOWNSEND, Newport (Mon.)

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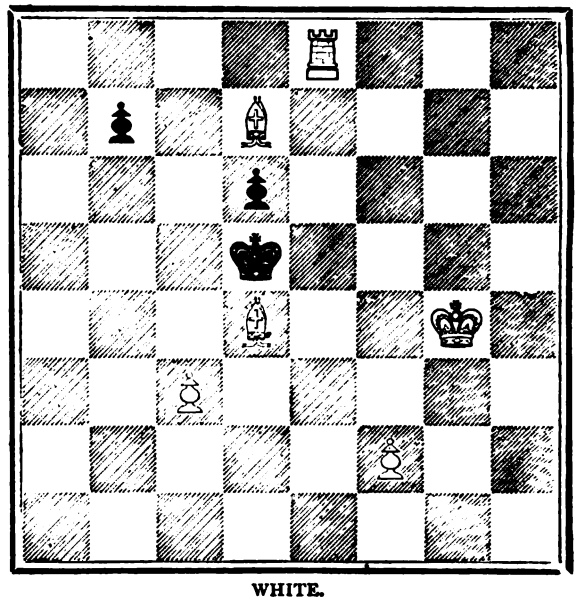


WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves

GAME LVIII.

Played some time ago at the City of London Chess Club.
(Evans' Gambit.)

White. Herr STEINITZ.	Black. Mr. BIRD.	White. Herr STEINITZ.	Black. Mr. BIRD.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	15. B to Kt 5 ch	15. K to K 2
2. Kt to K B 3	2. Kt to Q B 3	16. Kt takes Q	16. B takes Q
3. B to B 4	3. B to B 4	17. Q R takes B	17. R to K B sq (c)
4. P to Q Kt 4	4. B takes P	18. Q R to K sq	18. P to K R 3
5. P to Q B 3	5. B to B 4	19. K Kt to K 6 (d)	19. P takes Kt
6. Castles	6. P to Q 3	20. Kt to Kt 6 ch	20. K to B 2
7. P to Q 4	7. P takes P	21. Kt takes R ch	21. K to B 3
8. P takes P	8. B to Kt 3	22. P to K B 4	22. Kt to K 2
9. Kt to Q B 3	9. Kt to R 4	23. P to K 5 ch	23. K to B 4
10. B to Q 3	10. P to Q B 4 (a)	24. B to Q 3 ch	24. K to Kt 5
11. P to Q 5	11. B to Kt 5	25. R to K 3 (e)	25. R takes Kt
12. Kt to K 2	12. Q to B 3	26. R to Kt 3 ch	26. K to R 4
13. B to K Kt 5	13. Q to Kt 3	27. B to K 2	
14. Kt to K B 4 (b)	14. Q takes B		

(a) This attempt to break up White's centre is decidedly premature.

(b) It is rarely indeed that we find Herr Steinitz overlooking anything, even in off-hand games like the present, but here we think he could have finished the game in a few moves by P to K 5.

Suppose	14. P to K 5	14. Q to R 4 (a)
	15. Q to R 5 ch	15. B to Q 2 (best)
	16. B to Q Kt 5	16. B takes B.

White threatens to take off the Bishop, therefore this seems Black's best line of play—

17. Q takes B ch	17. K to B sq
18. Q to Q 7	

Black must now prepare for 19 Kt to K B 4, and his best reply appears to be 18 P takes P; for if 18 P to K B 3 or 4, then White plays 19 Kt to K B 4, follows Kt to K 6 ch.

	18. P takes P
19. Q to Q 6 ch	19. K to K sq
20. Kt to K B 4	20. Q to Kt 5 (best)
21. Kt takes P	21. Q to K B 4
22. R to K sq, &c.	

White can also on the 20th move adopt the following course:—

20. Q takes P ch	20. K to Q 2
21. Q to B 5 ch	21. K to K sq
22. Kt to B 4	22. Kt to K 2
23. R to K sq, &c., &c.	

(a)

	14. P to K B 4
15. B to Kt 5 ch	15. K to B sq

If K to B 2, White continues the attack by the same move—

16. Kt to K B 4	16. Q to K B 2
17. Kt to K 6 ch, &c.	

(c) P to K R 3, followed by P to Q Kt 4, would have been much better play. (d) An excellent conception. (e) All this is very finely played on White's part. If Black now moves P to Q B 5, then follows—

25. B to K 2 ch	25. K to R 5 best
26. K R to B 3 winning easily;	

for if Black plays 26 K to Kt 5, White plays 27 R to B 2 dis ch, mating next move, and if

	26. B takes R ch
27. R takes B	27. R takes P
28. R to R 3 ch	28. K to Kt 4
29. R to R 5 mate.	

GAME LIX.—Played between Major MINCHIN and Mr. BOLT.

(King's Gambit.)

White. Major M.	Black. Mr. BOLT.	White. Major M.	Black. Mr. BOLT.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	11. Q to Q 3	11. Castles Q R
2. P to K B 4	2. P takes P	12. P to Q Kt 3	12. P to Q R 3
3. K Kt to B 3	3. P to K Kt 4	13. P to Q 5	13. B to K Kt 5
4. B to Q B 4	4. B to Kt 2	14. K Kt to Q 4	14. Kt to Q 2 (a)
5. P to Q 4	5. P to Q 3	15. Kt to Q B 6	15. P takes Kt
6. Castles	6. P to K R 3	16. Q takes R P ch	16. K to Q Kt sq
7. P to Q B 3	7. Q to K 2	17. P takes P	17. Kt to Q B 4
8. Kt to Q R 3	8. B to K 3	18. Q to R 5 (b)	18. B to K 7
9. B to Q 3	9. Kt to Q 2	19. Kt to Kt 5 and wins	
10. B to Q B 2	10. Kt to Kt 3		

(a) He ought to have taken off the Kt with K B. The move made gives White an opportunity for an irresistible attack.
(b) White here missed an opportunity of forcing the mate in a few moves, by 18 Q to Kt 5 ch. If Black replies with 18 K to B sq; then 19 Q to R 5, followed by 20 Kt to Kt 5, and White, barring the useless sacrifice of the Kt, must mate in two moves. If on the other hand Black plays 18 K to R 2, then 19 Q to R 5 ch 19 Kt interposes 20 Kt to Kt 5 ch, &c.

WHIST.

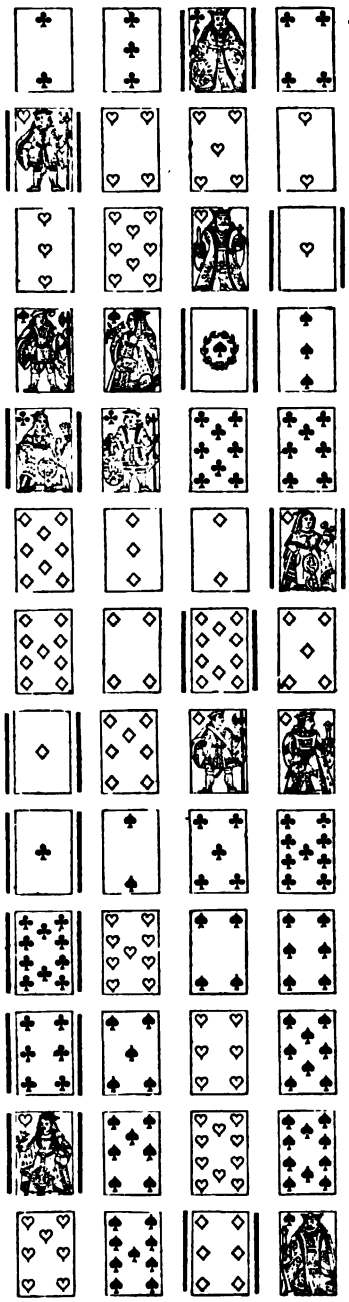
A and B play against X and Z. A leads. The card with the double rim wins, and the card below the rimmed card is the next one led.

HAND No. 118.

B's Hand—D Kv, 10, 6, 2; C Kg, 8, 5; S A, 4; H Kg, 10, 6, 5.

Score—Love All.

Z turns up D Kg.

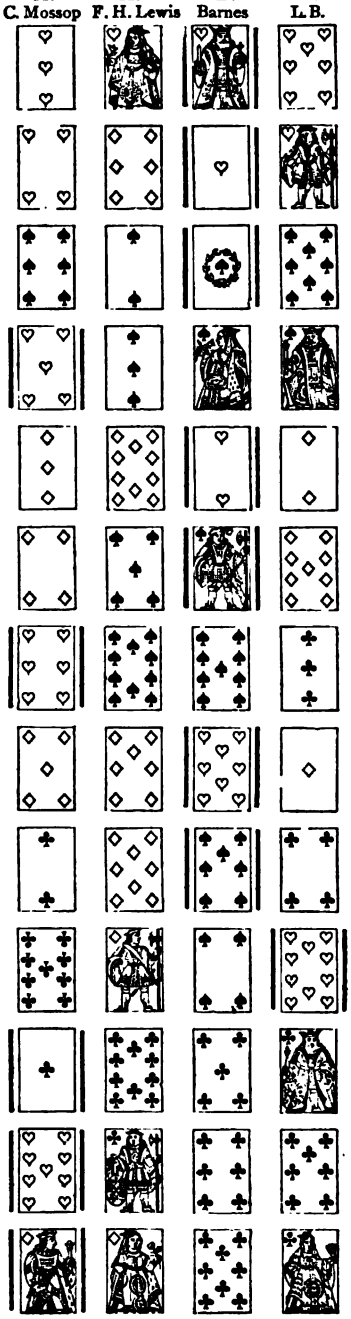


HAND No. 119.

Played at the Westminster Chess Club, 14th November 1871.

A's Hand—H 9, 6, 5, 4, 3; C A 9, 2; S 6; D Kg, 5, 4, 3.

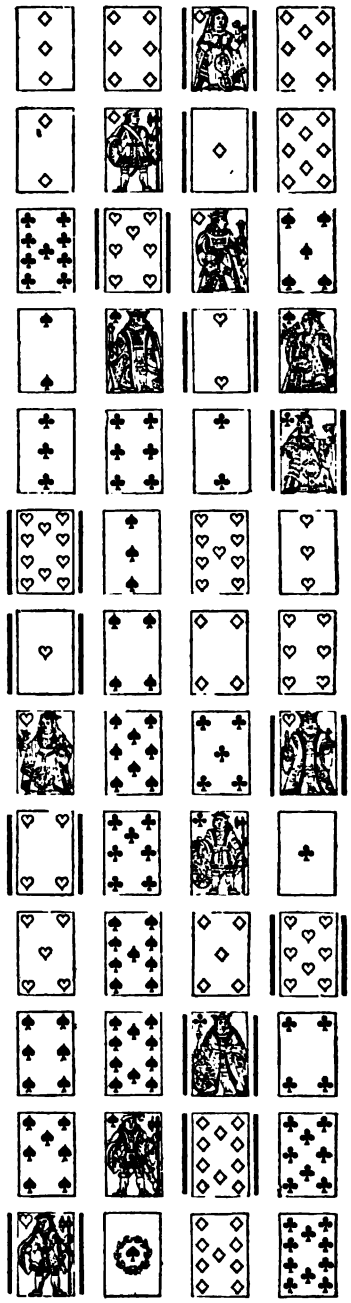
Score—Love All. Z turns up H 10.



HAND No. 120.

A's Hand—H A, Q, Kv, 10, 5, 4; D 3, 2; C 9, 3; S 7, 6, 2.

Score—Love All. Z turns up H Kg.



HAND No. 118.

SIR,—Enclosed you will find a game I played last week. It appeared to me that B's play in the trump suit (tricks 6, 7 and 8) was exceedingly good, and that in no other way could we have won the game with those cards. Experienced judges like yourself will know whether my opinion is right or not. If you think the game worthy of a place in the "Papers," I append some notes :—

NOTES.—6. Seeing that either Clubs or Hearts would be trumped the next round, A led trumps regardless of the King turned up on his right. 7. Having established his Spade suit, Z returns trumps up to an apparently very weak hand. If B had played a low card again, A would not have ventured to lead Ace next time, but by taking the trick and then forcing out Z's King, B enables his partner to make all the Clubs, and then wins the game.—A. C.*

* We give the game and notes as they are sent, but we cannot commend the play. 1. The proper lead is the Ace. 2. We should not have opened our suit, but rather returned the Club or led a trump through the honour. 6. We do not much care for an honour being turned up to our right, but with three trumps only we do very much object to a trump lead with a whole suit of Spades against us. A was right in assuming that B had four trumps, and if he chose to assume (which we presume he did, but for which there was no apparent ground) that B was safe in Spades, we should prefer the Ace 9 lead to the 8. (7 and 8.) This is past our comprehension. Why should Z return his adversary's lead? and why should B take A's trick? B assumed that the 8 was A's highest, but what did Z think?

HAND No. 119.

NOTES.—This is a hand that pleases the gallery. With the best trump it is nearly always useless to pass winning cards. When will players learn this simple lesson? Z's best play is to trump and lead the D Ace.

HAND No. 120.

NOTES.—6. Plays through the Blue Peter. 7. A knows that all the trumps are in Z's hand. 10. This wins the game, as Z can have no more Spades, and must play up to B in Clubs.

WHIST JOTTINGS.—THE SINGLETON.

THE most attractive lead at Whist is the single card. In the event of success (and it is then only it makes an impression), the profit is so immediate that there are few players that can refrain from its use. It is like a speculation which men enter into outside their business. If profit arise, it is thought ten times more about than a similar profit obtained by the regular course of trade. There is no drudgery about it; it comes, as it were, by instinct, and we flatter ourselves it was our own 'cuteness that brought about the result, rather than luck or chance. Nor do we ever recal the amount of time or expense we expended on the subject of our venture, or the risk we have run, or the anxiety we have undergone, or how much we have neglected our legitimate business to obtain the desired end. The same idea, we say, exists as regards the Singleton. No one doubts that this lead is often advantageous. With bad players it is very advantageous. One of our best players once told us that if we were to go through the whole of the hands that have been published in these Papers, he believed a large majority of cases would show that a benefit would have accrued by leading from the weakest suits, *i.e.*, that as many tricks would have been obtained by this lead as any other. We have never examined the statement with sufficient care to test its truth, and we do not propose to assume the one view or the other. For our purpose we should be content to take the statement as correct, and still strongly to insist on the system being unsound. It can never be too often impressed on the Whist player that a trick in trumps is of no greater value than a trick in any other suit. Stated in this form, no one in cool blood would dispute the proposition; yet in practice we constantly find players throwing away trick after trick with no other apparent design than to make two tricks with one trump. The sole object of the game, "to win," is not, as we think, attained by the Singleton lead. We do not, of course, seriously admit that the Singleton pays in the average of cases; we admit it only for the sake of argument, and for our purpose give in the point. The difference of the lead from strength always, and from weakness occasionally, introduces an element of uncertainty into the game, the value of which is not to be measured by immediate benefits. Whist, as ordinarily played in good Whist society, is based on a certain proposition, viz., that the leader leads his strongest suit, or he leads trumps, being safe in every suit. This proposition enters into the minds of every player that ever pretended to play Whist since the time of Hoyle, and in good Whist society the proposition is as certain as that 2 and 2 make 4. The moment this Singleton lead is introduced, the basis on which the fabric is erected is done away with. We do not know that the first stone is laid. We know nothing of the proposition. The structure is on sand, and washed away with the first trump lead. We are quite aware that there are players who, with five or six trumps, play on the Singleton system. It is not with them we wish to argue. This form of the mania is perfectly comprehensible, and with men who play on this system, and this system only, we can easily get on. We do not believe the system sound, but with five or six trumps it does not much matter what they play. Here there is a system, and we do not care a straw what the system is, provided it is a system. If the sound players choose to give way, and abandon the Long Suit system in favour of the Singleton, we are not now about to argue against it, but what we do contend for is a system, good, bad, or indifferent, and if we are to have the Singleton system, let us so understand it and play accordingly. We suppose that even a fool must know that the question when to lead, and when not to lead trumps, is a difficult subject, and that when to do so is a matter for judgment or discretion nearly every hand, and that on this lead depends, to a great extent, success or failure. And we take it that the leader of trumps must proceed on some hypothesis.

If on an unsound basis, the lead will generally (not always) come to grief. If on a sound basis, benefit will (as a rule) follow. It is on this point, in other words, on the conduct of the game we so strongly object to the lead of the Singleton. Suppose, on the first round, the partner wins the trick, and that he is possessed of a moderately good hand, say four trumps, and that he is safe in the other two suits, he can come to no harm by leading trumps, but with the probability of a Singleton lead, coupled with weakness, this chance of taking the offensive is gone. He cannot speculate with a suit against him. The game is taken out of our hands, and by whom? Not the man who ought to have the conduct of the game, but by the man who has no scheme but that of making one or, at the most, two miserable trumps; and with this further danger, that to attain his end—to obtain success—he must open two weak speculative suits, or be defeated in the attempt, a risk, to our thinking, of more importance than even making two tricks; and after all, what does this cleverness amount to? In order that he should get his end, and make his trumps, he sacrifices a suit, perhaps two, in which it is assumed his partner has some strength. He shows his weakness the first round, and he must assume that his adversaries have such strength in trumps that they would lead them in any event, and that without attempting to establish their suit in which some of the leading cards are against them. Except on these suppositions, the whole fabric is destroyed. In addition, he must assume that he is playing against men who know not his practice, or he would be aware that the merest tyro at the game would defeat him instanter. He must assume that the adversaries would lead trumps originally, but that they will not do so when they observe a weak lead from the adversary. Confidence is to be valued at something, and the question is at what? To our thinking it is certainty against uncertainty, happiness against doubt and misery, skill against incompetence; for how can skill at Whist come into play until the cards and their position are known? If we are to assume that the position of the cards is never to be known, or, given the position, that we should not know how to take advantage of the knowledge thus acquired, be it so by all means, but this is no longer Whist. If Whist is to consist in playing the Aces and Kings, then we are all on an equality, only the man who leads them out first has the greatest advantage; but any one can make the Aces and Kings. We fancied there was something more in Whist than making these and the small trumps. It may be we are mistaken, but if this view is correct there is no occasion for study at Whist; good and bad play are but fanciful terms, and there is no difference between the one and the other. Our preaching is in vain, and we but waste our pen, ink and paper.

Putting on one side the confidence of which we have spoken, and again the certainty that the long suit which we desire to trump will be led by some one else, the course thus pursued gives up the advantage of the lead—a point that some of us venture to think of value—and with the lead is given up the advantage of bringing in the long cards of our suit, and the road is made easy and plain for our adversaries to bring in the long cards of their suit. We fancy we should be willing to give a trifle to the adversary that would lead our long suit, yet the leader of the Singleton gives this advantage to his adversaries twice out of three times. With the Singleton lead we give up the move, or, as Emgeen calls it, time, which is something like losing a move at Chess. The lead can be demonstrated to be of value, but the demonstration would consist in showing the advantage to be derived from making good the long cards of the original lead. The lead in fact is of advantage both for offensive and protective purposes,—for offensive if we find our partner strong, for protection if he prove weak. The Singleton is no protection; it is a two-edged sword, one side of which will probably cut us instead of our adversary.

The success that attends the Singleton lead appears to arise from want of acumen on the part of the adversaries. A little more attention to the play should lead to the total discomfiture of the scheme. We are astounded at some of our players not knowing from their own hands the nature of the lead. It is of constant occurrence that your own hand ought to tell what the lead is, and yet day by day we see men taking no thought on the matter, and proceeding in total ignorance through the hand, and playing as if the original suit led were the dangerous suit to guard against. This doubtless arises from the change that has come over the play; for whereas a few years ago we had in all our clubs a large number of players who played according to rule—men who followed the precepts of Mr. Clay and Cavendish—now all alike consider themselves full fledged, and soar above all law, completely emancipated from the rules of their old masters, even on such common-place matters as the leads. It may be we are all great players now, but it certainly would give us more pleasure to see a little more modesty in this respect. If we are all geniuses at the game, it is very satisfactory to know it, but it appears to us that the game is rapidly deteriorating, and that it is not nearly so good as it was five years ago. The Singleton trump lead we must leave for another day.

DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM, No. LX.

By Mr. F. H. LEWIS.

A's Hand.—H 8, 7, 6; S Ace, Q, 9; C Kv, 8, 7, 6; D 10, 9, 2.

X's Hand.—H Q, 5, 4; S 4, 3, 2; C Q, 2; D 7, 6, 5, 4, 3.

B's Hand.—H Ace, Kg, Kv, 3, 2; S 7, 6, 5; C Ace, Kg, 3; D A, 8.

Z's Hand.—H 10, 9; S Kg, Kv, 10, 8; C 10, 9, 5, 4; D Kg, Q, Kv.

Hearts trumps.—A to lead, and A and B to make all 13 tricks.

WESTMINSTER CHESS CLUB CHALLENGE (WHIST) CUP.

OUR readers are aware that the above-named club (ever forward in the cause of Chess and Whist) purchased a cup, value £10, to be competed for by the Whist clubs of the country, the object being to promote social intercourse between different clubs, and to test the various styles of play, and, if possible, to improve the practice of the game. The Cavendish Club challenged the Westminster, and succeeded in vanquishing their opponents, and thus became the holders of the cup on certain conditions, the material clauses of which are as follows:—

1. The Westminster Club presents £10 to purchase a cup, to be contended for in Whist matches between clubs, and to be held on the following terms:—

2. The holders for the time being shall be bound to accept a challenge sent by any existing club, and shall fix two days, not being Sundays, to play the match, such two days to be within one month of the receipt of such challenge.

10. If the holders fail to name two days of play within the time herein fixed, or fail to accept the challenge, or fail to play, the cup shall be returned to the Westminster Chess Club.

In October last the committee of the Westminster determined to challenge for the cup, and this was done on the 9th October. To this challenge no reply was made, and on the 14th November the Captain authorised to act for the Westminster wrote to the committee as follows:—

"On the 9th October, on behalf of the committee of the Westminster Chess Club, I challenged for the cup. To that challenge I received no reply. The time has gone by when, by the rules under which the cup is held, you were bound to fix the days of play, and you have failed to do so. I am therefore instructed by the committee to request the return of the cup at your earliest convenience."

To this no reply was received. After waiting nearly another month, the Captain wrote again, and then for the first time Mr. Booth, the proprietor of the Cavendish, replies as follows:—

"CAVENDISH CLUB, 307 *Regent Street, W., 8th December* 1871.

"Sir,—Your favour of the 4th ult. has to day been put before me, as, in consequence of a severe accident, I have not been in business for nearly five weeks, and can now only write with effort. The cup was duly received in the autumn, but until now I never knew officially from whence it came, or the conditions on which it was sent.

"I do not find any challenge from any club among the papers of the club. If you will favour me with a copy of such challenge, or a fresh arrangement, I will put it before the committee of the club, and communicate to you their decision. "Yours faithfully, "LIONEL BOOTH, *Hon. Sec. C. C.*"

In answer to this, on the 9th December, the Captain wrote again, enclosing a copy of the previous challenge. To this no reply has been sent, and the Cavendish or its proprietor has got the cup, and fail to give it up. We give the broad outlines without comment, remarking only that the fact of the challenge having been sent was announced in these pages in our November number.

UNIQUE.

THIS is a new card game, introduced by Messrs. Hunt. It can be played by two, three, four or more persons; and although for two, three, and four players, it is respectively inferior to Piquet, Calabrasella, and Whist. It is the only game that all the numbers, two to six, can play. For two, three, four or five players, the pack consists of 65 cards, *i.e.* an ordinary pack with one suit, say hearts, in duplicate. Various combinations of the cards count. Thus the assembly, five cards of a similar denomination, as five Aces 100, five Kings 80, and so on, sequences and flushes of six count 30. Marriages, *i.e.* Kings and Queens, 10, double (at one declaration) 30, and so on, much the same as at Besique. Six cards are dealt in the ordinary way (five only if the number of players exceed four) to each player, and the remainder of the cards are the stock from which the hand is replenished. The first player looks at his cards, and if he has anything to score he places them on the table, and takes into his hand from the stock the number of cards exposed. The cards so exposed (except flushes and sequences) are done with. If the player has nothing to score, he places on the table face upwards, one of his cards, say the 2, and draws one other card from the stock in its place. The next player does the like; if he puts out a 2 he places it on the previous 2, and as soon as the fifth 2 is put on this pack those five twos or threes, or whatever they are, form a trick, and the player of the fifth card gains the trick. There are other points connected with the game, and other scores and variations in the mode of play, fully set out in the rules which accompany the box, and also a set of markers for scoring. By-the-bye, in our box there are but four markers, which would cause a slight difficulty when five play. The game is in no way adapted for gambling (an element in the eyes of some in its favour), otherwise we should object to the scorers, on the ground that it is impossible for one player to check the others score, and the consequence would be that the young ladies would cheat in the same way that they used to do in our younger days at Croquet. The game is easily learnt, and from our observations the children appear to enjoy it. There is in addition ample scope for skill, and this combination ought to be sufficient to make the game attractive.

CROQUET.

"WE think Croquet is going out," was an opinion often expressed in the early days of this fine game, by those who took it up because it was the fashion, and who, liking it for no other reason, dropped it when they found that "everybody," that is to say all the whole body of persons who are "nobodies," had began to play it. And in odd corners of our island there are still to be found persons who, finding that the rage for the game has gone out in their particular neighbourhood, imagine this to be a certain sign of a general decay of interest. But to those who are aware of the actual balance of converts *v.* perverts, it is a matter of astonishment to what extent the game still goes on increasing. Within the last two or three years have been formed, the Torre, Edgbaston, South West Gloucestershire, Handsworth, Huddersfield, Lightcliffe and Northowram, Moffat, Somersetshire county, Mallow, Peripatetic, Grantham, Worrall, and Leven Clubs. Against this increase is to be put the defection of about four Clubs, which in the same period have become extinct. The total number of Croquet Clubs, counting those in which Archery and Croquet are mixed, is forty-six, and these, we believe, have all taken their rise since 1862. And this is nothing to what may be expected. Ireland, which first gave us the game, dropped it when tight Croquet, and one or two absurd rules were abolished; but Ireland is now taking up the game again. There are three or four societies just half formed in the sister island, which give a fair promise that the game will revive in this its original birth-place. Scotland at present furnishes two Clubs, and Wales one; so that Scotland, Ireland and Wales may be considered as virgin soils. The fact that certain Clubs have died out may sometimes be attributed to the jealousies which exist in certain neighbourhoods where there is a mixed society, and two or three coteries of exclusive people. Croquet is decidedly democratic in this, that it brings many people into society who have not the advantage of a very long pedigree, or a very long purse. Following their instincts, exclusive people, as a rule, do not like the game, and very often make "the wish the father to the thought," and will tell you they "think Croquet is going out." They might with just as much reasonableness inform us that Cricket, or Billiards, or Whist was going out. We must however not omit to mention another cause of the extinction of Croquet ardour in some places. That cause is nothing less than conceit. Knowledge of the game, as a science, would appear to emanate from the Midland counties, which have given to the world nearly all our best players—Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Warwickshire having alone produced Messrs. Peel, Muntz, Law, Whitmore and Lillie. But in certain remote parts of the island real skill is hardly seen. Small Clubs are still to be found which play the six, and even eight-game. With local rules and tight Croquet, added to the tediousness and weariness of playing in a game of eight, no wonder that Croquet should "go out;" the wonder is, that played thus, it ever lasted so long. Yet the people who play it in this form often think they are judges and arbiters of the game; and then, finding themselves really distanced in the race, they draw up in disgust. With these slight defections no one need be discouraged; the game goes on its merits, and its progress will, therefore, be uniform. The more rapid extension of real skill and knowledge may however now be confidently anticipated, from the exertions of the Grand National Croquet Club; and by means of the sound system, and active energy of this Society, the game is likely to be fully appreciated from one end of the country to the other. One of the healthiest signs is that, although at the meetings of this Club at Oxford and Aldershot, last year, all the prizes were taken by members of the Grand National Croquet Club, neither Oxford nor Aldershot carrying off a single one; yet, we understand, both places have given a hearty invitation to this leading Club in the on-coming season. This is as it should be. Oxford and Aldershot "do not know when they are beaten;" and, from that very fact, some of their members may very likely come off victorious in 1872, even against the most skilful players; to acknowledge a man's superiority, not to be daunted, and to challenge him again, this is the true English method which eventually gains the day. We trust however, for the sake of Croquet, whose cause is chiefly represented by the Grand National Croquet Club, that the meetings of the first Club will not be confined to those localities where successful meetings have already been held. The future of Croquet is literally in the hands of this Club. We owe it to this Society that the rules are not now in the hands of one or two Clubs, and one or two individuals in those Clubs. But a great deal more remains to be done; and it has to be proved in remote quarters of the kingdom what an absurdity it is to suppose that "Croquet is going out."

DRAMATIC NOTES.

NEW plays and new subjects for discussion have been so plentiful in the dramatic world since the beginning of December, that, had we twice the amount of space at our disposal, we should fail to note everything satisfactorily. In addition to the ordinary doings of the last two months, there has been a grand outcry and passage of arms about the Lord Chamberlain's authority over theatrical affairs; and there is now every prospect of a revival of that much vexed subject, the state of the drama in England,—owing to an article on the question which appears in the current number of the *Quarterly Review*. The writer is free from the drawback which frequently attends the efforts of Quarterly Reviewers, and shows a more practical knowledge

of his subject than is usual with his class. At the same time we cannot but think that some of his statements are erroneous, and his proposals unsatisfactory. It is surely absurd to pronounce that the higher drama is dead or dormant at the present day because the privileges of the patent theatres were withdrawn. The immense increase of population in London, and consequently of theatres, would have rendered those privileges an unbearable nuisance and restriction in any case; and from his own showing it was only at exceptional periods, rude as the times of Garrick and the Kembles, that a well-balanced company of actors and a perfect organisation of management was able to be secured. Nobody would wish to revive either the plays or the players of very many periods since the Restoration, and on the whole it may be fairly assumed that the gains and losses of the past and present ages equalize each other. As the Quarterly Reviewer justly remarks, and as we have urged over and over again in these Papers, there is an abundance of good writing and good acting at this present time, both in London and the country. Seventy years ago the playgoer was confined to Covent Garden or Drury Lane if he wished to witness a good performance. In this very month of January 1872 he may in turn visit the Lyceum, where Mr. Irving gives his marvellous and most original representation of the Alsatian burgomaster; the Princesses, where Mr. Phelps shows that he can adapt himself to modern comedy; to the Haymarket, where Mr. Gilbert provides most delicate and fanciful fare in *Pygmalion and Galatea;* to the Prince of Wales', with its perfect performance of *Caste*; to the Globe, the Olympic and the St. James'. This is a fairly long list, and other individual efforts of high merit might be added to it. On the other hand, it must be confessed that a deplorable state of things exists in many other quarters. In fact, side by side with the improvement that is undoubtedly going on, as the examples we have quoted will show, there is an equal deterioration, which threatens to mar progress, and the general public, which mixes up together all things theatrical, fails to distinguish between the good and bad. Pantomimes, spectacular dramas and burlesques are produced apparently for no other object than to exhibit crowds of undressed women, and the audiences which have grown up with this kind of entertainment would listen with utter amazement and ignorant incredulity to any statements about art in drama. Tell them that it is the province of the actor to paint the deepest passions of the soul, to portray the innermost workings of the mind, to call his own and his hearers' intellectual faculties into play, and they will set you down as a lunatic. Tell them that, whilst the drama appeals to the mind, music merely appeals to the senses; that a good play with a healthy moral is often of more benefit than fifty sermons, and they will call you ignorant and profane. With them the end and purpose of a visit to the theatre is the lust of the eye and the lust of the flesh. With the more respectable portion of them, fine scenery, pretty dresses and a low comedian is all that is required for their enjoyment; for the more vicious, are supplied the troops of undraped females, of whom there seems to be an inexhaustible supply. The result is, with the men, desire; with the woman, envy. At a recent visit to the Gaiety, we sat down under a private box, occupied by two ladies and two gentlemen. From their conversation, which was by no means subdued, it was apparent that they cared nothing for the dialogue in Mr. Gilbert's *Thespis*, nothing even for Mr. Toole's drolleries, or Miss Farren's pleasant vivacity. But an overwhelming interest was displayed in the movements of a certain minor performer, a woman without the smallest notion of acting, with a face remarkable for its total absence of expression, and a voice which ought to have had the effect of driving the audience out of the theatre. But the performer has a certain or uncertain sort of reputation, and her portrait may be seen by the side of the Queen's in shop windows. Hence the interest of the occupants of the private box, who were apparently the sons and daughters of respectable citizens. Of what use would it be to talk about art and culture to that large class of which these four are specimens? The plan proposed by the Quarterly Reviewer would not meet this difficulty. His suggestion is,—a theatre devoted solely to the higher branches of the drama, managed by a superior person, and supported by a guarantee fund. This is the old idea, started in the summer after the visit of the Comèdie Française, with the substitution of guarantors for the "disinterested" capitalist who was then proposed. But this single theatre would not even satisfy the true lovers of the drama, who exist in a larger quantity than is supposed. We should do very well as we are if only the theatres could be so divided into two classes—one for the benefit of the eye, the other of the ear, that the public might not be misled. We can only repeat a suggestion made in a former number, that the nature of the performance should be intelligibly posted outside each theatre, and advertised in the daily journals. Those who wish for a good play and good acting, and those who prefer posturing and poses plastiques, might then have their respective tastes gratified before paying their money. It is hopeless for a Quarterly Reviewer or any one else to convert the latter class to a better state of mind. In three millions of people there will be every variety of tastes, down to the lowest, all of which must be gratified; and therefore the best plan to avoid clashing is to have different places of amusements to suit different appetites, and to let the character of each be well known. Unless the Reviewer's ideas of sweetness and light can be impressed on the majority of the critics, this is impossible; for they praise equally the art of Mr. Irving and Miss Sheridan's "chaste" performance of Lady Godiva.

It must be confessed that if we look at the London stage, and the people that patronise it during the seven or eight weeks succeeding Christmas, a feeling of something like despair comes over us as to whether the dramatic art will resume its proper place in England. We have spoken of two kinds of public, the one possessed of culture and intelligence, the other debased. There is a third order, and perhaps the most numerous, consisting chiefly of those who do not approve of theatrical performances, as conducing to iniquity

and immorality. But, breaking their rule of abstention from theatres once a year, they go themselves, and take their children at this period to Drury Lane, Covent Garden, Astley's, the Alhambra, and other places, where pantomimes are performed. They go in immense numbers, for Drury Lane and Covent Garden are crowded in every part, and late trains are advertised on suburban lines for their especial convenience. The true lover of the drama does not visit these entertainments, but the opponents of the stage muster in their thousands. The utter inconsistency, the fatuous folly of this behaviour is bewildering and maddening, and would have caused the prophets of old to rend their clothes and heap ashes on their heads in an ecstacy of disgust. These good people denounce Shakespeare, Sheridan, and a host of by-gone dramatists; Robertson, Gilbert, Byron (in his better mood), Boucicault, and others of the present day, as persons to be avoided and ignored; but they rush in herds to witness the indecency and dreary inanity of modern pantomime, and it is perhaps hardly to be wondered at that, after a night of yawning torture spent in this fashion, they stop away from the theatre for another year. What is it they come out to see? To begin with, a ballet; then a carpenter's scene, in which certain characters utter sentences which it would be absurd to call dialogue; then another ballet, then a front scene as before, and so on, backwards and forwards, for the space of three or four hours. Interspersed are songs taken from the music halls, and acrobatism taken from country circuses. No scene has any connection with the one before or after it, and the dresses of the women are such that if a drawing is taken of them, and engraved for a coarse illustrated journal, that periodical is seized by the police. What little humour that is left to pantomime is to be found in the East-end theatres, to which that public we have spoken of never goes; and yet the members of this public, after visiting, and in some cases enjoying the coarse and chaotic jumble we have spoken of, would account as a dangerous character any one who counselled them to hear Phelps or Wigan, Matthews or Irving. They are fitly represented by the Lord Chamberlain, whose inconsistent and ineffectual policy has been so much commented upon. This wise potentate, whilst refusing representation to a play in which genius may have shown the workings of vice and crime, in order to point out the punishment which follows them, gives his cordial approval to exhibitions which are at once dull and dirty, tedious and vulgar.

The conclusion we arrive at then is, that it is hopeless for any reformer to attempt the abolition of all that is objectionable and common-place on the stage. Those who have no faith in, or understanding of dramatic art as it should be, have as just a right to have their appetites gratified as those who seek after better things; and the easiest way of pleasing everybody is to draw a firm distinction between the theatres that seek the suffrages of one class and those that pander to the tastes of the other. If the managers of the day were of a better type, and not so wedded to a simple commercial policy, this reform could by their means be easily carried out. But as they are not to be depended on, the plain duty of giving the public accurate information devolves on the critics, to whose opinions readers of newspapers pay great deference, and who might, without causing offence to anybody, point out where may be obtained healthy food for the mind or mere gratification to the eye. As long as these Notes are continued we will endeavour to draw these distinctions, and nothing can be easier than our task this month, for the pantomimes may be one and all excluded, and there is an abundance of good plays and good acting to be seen. We plainly advise those who consider cultivation of the mind the first thing necessary in a visit to the theatre to stop away altogether from Drury Lane, Covent Garden, Astley's, the Alhambra, the Surrey, the Victoria Palace, and to leave the Princess's and the Vaudeville as soon as the first piece is finished. They may eschew the Adelphi, for neither the drama nor the burlesque will repay a visit; but they may go to the Queen's,—for the gratification of their curiosity: nothing else will be gratified. At the Gaiety and the Strand the utterly bad and the passably good are so mixed up that no distinction can be arrived at. Of those that remain we have already noticed the performances at the Prince of Wales', the Globe, the Olympic, the Court, and the Lyceum. Mr. Irving's acting at the latter theatre cannot be too highly praised. We have been told that high dramatic art is dead; that nothing is left of old traditions save rant and mouthing; and that the best things of modern days belong to a tea-cup and saucer order. Mr. Irving's performance contradicts both these statements. He does not rant, neither does he describe his process of murdering as if he were ordering a new coat. He neither bellows nor blusters, and yet there is a breadth of colouring, a force and a vigour about his acting, which lifts it above the cabinet-picture style which has obtained most favour in recent times.

Mr. W. S. Gilbert, in his comedy of *Pygmalion and Galatea*, produced at the Haymarket, again seeks to satirise the follies and inconsistencies of the day, and to tell us home truths by unfamiliar means. In the *Palace of Truth* he brought the art of magic to his aid, in the present comedy he lays his scene in classical times. Galatea, suddenly endowed with life, gives utterance to sentiments and opinions which we are all taught to respect and believe in; but, clashing as they do with the practice and habits of all around her, she is voted a nuisance, and restored to her original marble. Nothing can be more delicate than the satire conveyed, or truer than the moral intended, but at the Haymarket half the satire is lost on the audience, and the moral is never discovered. This audience belongs to that class which goes to the theatre solely for amusement, and Mr. Buckstone's manner of speaking is productive of more interest to it than the matter that is put into his mouth. As long as Mr. Buckstone remains on the Haymarket stage, so long will more attention be paid to his movements than to the play represented, and Mr. Gilbert would do well to find another medium for his best

works. He has shown great discernment in describing modern life under the guise of ancient dress, for Galatea and her sentiments would not be tolerated in modern dress, save in a burlesque. It may be added that in Miss Robertson the author finds a most graceful and clever exponent of his ideas.[1] His last burlesque, *Thespis*, produced at the Gaiety, shows many signs of Mr. Gilbert's peculiar humour, and the quaint idea of the Grecian Gods grown old, may veil a deeper meaning. But few of Mr. Gilbert's ideas can be understood in *Thespis*, as the piece is overloaded with dresses, decorations, legs, and Mr. Toole. Many of the good things are contained in the songs, and it may be doubted whether most people understand or even hear the words of songs. Mr. Toole is very droll, but he is not artistic. He usually substitutes his own ideas for the author's text, and the loudest laughs are given to the actor's "gag." He is undoubtedly full of a kind of London street boy's humour, which has the merit of being genial, unaffected, and rarely coarse. He is the Spurgeon of the stage, as Mr. Spurgeon may be said to be the Toole of theology. People go to see Toole, not the play he acts in, just as worshippers flock to the Surrey Tabernacle to listen to Mr. Spurgeon's peculiarities, regardless of the lessons intended to be conveyed. But this is against an author, and it would be better for him to leave Mr. Toole's part blank, than to waste good things which will never be uttered. It is to be hoped that Mr. Gilbert will soon give us a more serious play, the scene to be laid in modern times. His modern comedies have not met with the same success as his plays of fancy, for the reason perhaps that in the former he carefully avoids treading on the corns of his audience. But we cannot help thinking that the time is ripe for a clever play, with a vigorous condemnation of modern vices and follies, and that the author of *Galatea* is the man to write it. Mr. Watts Phillips has provided a new play for the Princess's Theatre, entitled *On the Jury*. The piece, which is half comedy, half sensation drama, is supported by the talents of Messrs. Phelps and Webster. The acting of the former is full of nervous power, and constitutes the most enjoyable part of the play. To gratify the supposed tastes of a Princesses audience a sensation scene is introduced; and it is a proof of the entire inharmoniousness between acting and sensation scenery that as soon as the latter is introduced, the former is stopped for the time altogether. The heroine of this play, who is Miss Furtado, is indeed in a sad predicament. She has to choose between a lover, in the shape of Mr. J. G. Shore, and a father, in the person of Mr. Webster. Nothing less like a lover than Mr. Shore can possibly be imagined; and as for Mr. Webster, it is a positive crime for his friends to allow him to act. It is actually a painful sight for those who have known him in the past to watch his futile efforts to walk and talk, and to hear the hardly suppressed laughter of the fickle pit. If it is considered necessary to the success of a play that Mr. Webster should be in it, let him be provided with an easy chair, placed near the footlights in sight of the audience, but it is a cruel thing to exhibit nightly, before unfeeling strangers, the spectacle of Mr. Webster's helpless old age.

The most noteworthy event of the month has been the production at the Queen's of a dramatised version of the *Last Days of Pompeii*. We have mentioned that there are three kinds of audiences; and the manager of the Queen's, who is evidently a person of superior wisdom, has sought to produce an entertainment which should be pleasing to all three. To the cultivated student what so pleasing as to see the manners and customs of the Romans faithfully and accurately represented, and to enjoy the delineation of the characters of Arbaces and Nydia. To the admirer of the female development there would be the attraction of two ballets, and to the general public would be afforded the spectacle of Vesuvius in flames, the circus, the gladiators, and the untimely suicide of Nydia in the concluding tableau. But it is clear that you cannot please everybody, and the result of this compromise between a seasonable pantomime and a spectacular drama is, that the little of everything that is introduced leaves an impression of nothing. The first act promises well, and the scene of the forum is bustling and natural; but it is odd, considering the man who has adapted the play, that Pompeii should be pronounced Pompey-eye, and Apœcides Appy-cides. In the remaining acts the genius of pantomime and spectacle is in the ascendant, and there is a kaleidoscope of Egyptain ballets, rope dancers, acrobats, red fire, explosions and all the luxuries of the season. The explosion of Vesuvius is the most ineffective attempt at realism that has been seen for years, and the dark scene that intervenes between this and the final tableau is exactly suggestive of the preamble to the transformation scene in a pantomime. All the beauties of the story are sacrificed for scenic effects—effects which are neither natural nor imposing. The play seems likely to run for some time, though on the first night, owing to imperfect rehearsals, the receptance was stormy. The critics, who could only comment on what they saw, gave their verdict accordingly. The management of the Queens, which is Crichtonic in its varied accomplishments, first commences a correspondence, complaining of the unjust criticisms, and then proceeds to make alterations in accordance with the critics' suggestions. We fear that this theatre will not fulfil the requirements set forth by the Quarterly Reviewer for a national establishment. It has one of the elements necessary,—a manager who is not an actor, and we presume there is some sort of a sinking fund. But sweetness and light can hardly be expected where, after the announcement is made that the genuineness of the public love for Shakspeare depends upon its visiting the Queen's, the text of *The Tempest* is freely excised to make room for two ballets.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CHESS.

E. FREEBOROUGH (Hull).—We have no desire to press hardly upon a disappointed competitor, but you attempt to carry the matter with too high a hand, and you are entirely in the wrong in your crusade against Mr. Finlinson's problem. It never appeared in any publication in its present form, and your comparison between your own inaccurate problem—which, as it admits of two solutions is not a problem at all—and that by Mr. Finlinson, wherein is embodied an "idea" the author had himself used before, is of the character ascribed in the proverb to comparisons in general. Please to turn to your problem, No. 25 (in the tourney), compare it with No. 34, *Westminster Papers*, January 1871, and then give the "hushed world" an estimate of your own "originality." Your remark that "much *will* be said upon the question of the soundness or unsoundness" of your problem may be true, for much nonsense may be uttered upon any subject, but you will find none to share your conviction of its soundness save the few persons who desire to lower the standard of problem construction to the dull level of the mediocrity they represent. 2. The decision of the judges is final, and we may add that, of all the competitors, you stand alone in impugning the justice of the award.

M. MARKS.—A vety pretty end-game. Many thanks.

V. GORGIAS.—We shall be glad to receive the games.

J. A. W. H. (Edinburgh).—Accept our best thanks. In the four-move problem, White in the third move may play B to R 6, instead of B to R 8, or 3 P to R 5. Can the B be placed on K R 8? The other problem is quite up to the mark, and appears correct. Your three-move problem (in our December number) has been much admired.

T. C. B. (Conway House).—You are quite right in supposing that problem No. 78 can be solved without the use of the White Knight. Despite the utmost caution, these sort of errors may be overlooked.

A. T. (Newport).—Very acceptable. Always glad to hear from you.

T. D. S. M. (London, Canada).—We have directed the attention of problem composers to the Tourney, and shall be very glad to assist your labours in the cause of Chess.

A. B. (Liverpool).—Many thanks for your letter and the game enclosed.

C. F. G.—Report and second letter received. We are much indebted to you for your interesting communications.

T. H. H. (Manchester).—Thanks for the lively little game. It shall have due honours next month.

CON AMORE.—Letter received, and request complied with.

J. M. (Brighton).—We are much obliged for your good wishes, and for the problems also. Card received and noted. Correct No. 3 by all means, for there is a freshness in the construction of it which pleases us exceedingly. We regard with interest your views on impossible positions, and should be obliged by your taking part in the discussion.

H. T. Y. (Cumberland Place).—There was a second solution, as follows:—1. Kt to Kt 6. 2. B to K B 5. 3. Kt to Q 5. 4. B mates, Black's moves being all forced. Your own solution, you will remember, was—1. Kt to B 8 ch. 2. B to K B 6. 3. B to Q B 3. 4. B mates. Why not try fortune once more?

W. H. (Truro).—The games are good, and No. 1 shall appear in our next number. The end games are not forgotten, but they have been crowded out lately. We shall however give a further selection from our store in the course of a few months.

DESDECHADO.—A capital little game. It shall be inserted in due course.

E. JANSEN.—Under examination. We will report next month.

J. H. F.—Much obliged for your promise.

J. H. E.—The idea is "curiously old," as they say of wine, but it is tolerably well worked out. It shall be examined and reported on.

WHIST.

C. B.—Diamond led. C, 4th player, throws down the best trump, and then another trump, and says that is game. He has a Diamond in his hand. The object he had in view was simply to save time. Is it a revoke?—*Ans.* Yes. If C wanted to save time he should have thrown all the cards on the table, but so far as we have observed he would save much more time by playing his cards in the regular way.

H. L.—There is no penalty for claiming a revoke, even though the claim is incorrect.

E. C.—Partners at Whist are ascertained by cutting. The two highest are partners against the two lowest. It makes no difference that the two highest are cards of equal value. They are still the two highest, and this was the end to be attained by cutting. You have succeeded in your object, which was simply to find the two highest.

S.—The words of the law are, "until the players have made such bets as they wish, bets should not be made with bystanders." This is the etiquette of the game, but in the eyes of Whist players the etiquette has the force of law. If you offer a bet to an outsider without first satisfying the table, and the bet is taken, and then one of the players expresses his desire to have the bet, it seems to us that if neither party will give way the proper course is for you to make the same bet twice. This may seem hard on you, but you are the cause of the difficulty by forgetting yourself. We do not see how you can get off the bet to the outsider, nor do we see how you can get off the bet at the table, and it is very desirable that some one should be punished for failing to observe the usage of society.

M. DAVIS.—Yes, you are quite right. The idea is however evident, viz., to make the last player win with the Ace, and return the little one.

PIQUET.

R.—W is 99, but has nothing good in his hand. S is 49, with a point good and 14 Aces. W plays one and calls game. Does he win a double or single.—*Ans.* A single. The point and 14 Aces count before the card played.

Z.—It is a double. We have answered the question before.

P.—You must declare the fact, and expose your cards to your adversary, or the *carte blanche* cannot be scored.

LOO.

I. E.—Before sitting down to play you should make your host clearly explain the rules of the game. The points are, with two trumps whether to lead the highest or not. The rule in London is to play one, except when two only play. Then, without the rule, any wise man would play the highest. If you have Ace of trumps, you must lead it. Trump after trick. Head the trick if you can. You are looed if you look at your hand before the proper time. For infraction of rules you are looed; but in different places the rule varies. Thus, if you win all three tricks and yet are looed, in most places you take out the pool and put it in again. In others you leave in the money you have won, and pay the amount of the loo besides. These seem the principal rules about which disputes arise, and which should be made clear at starting.

W. M.—I am playing limited loo. I have no chance of winning a trick after the first lead, and I throw my other two cards on the table, and say I am looed. I admit that I am looed for not winning a trick, but my opponents claim that I am looed twice, *i.e.* (a), for not winning a trick; (b) for playing out of turn. (1.) Is this so? (2.) Is the law the same at limited and unlimited loo?—*Ans.* The laws of loo are very obscure, and, so far as we know, there is nothing authoritative on the subject. Bohn's laws are not applicable to the game as now played. (1.) On the case before us, we think at limited loo, when you have paid the full amount of the limit, you cannot be made to pay more. (2.) At unlimited loo we should give the same answer, but you commit a gross irregularity in showing your cards.

The Westminster Papers.

1st MARCH 1872.

THE CHESS WORLD.

"The whisperings of our petty burgh."

THE most noteworthy event of the past month is the high festival held by the members of the City of London Chess Club. The proceedings on this interesting occasion our readers will find fully reported elsewhere. Of matches and tourneys we have little to say, for, excepting a brilliant gathering of the amateurs of Bath and Bristol, there has been nothing to attract attention. This meeting was held at the Assembly Rooms, Bath, on the 1st ult., and exactly sixty-four players—one for every square on the Chess-board—took part in the contest which ensued. The palm of victory was gained by the representatives of "Avon's rolling pride," and little wonder too, with the fair sex on their side.

The *Quarterly Chronicle* appears this month under the amended title of the *Chess Players' Chronicle.* The proprietors are to be congratulated upon thus getting rid of the absurdity of a *Quarterly Chronicle* appearing every alternate month. People have very often private reasons for denying that two and two make four, but few go so far as to insist that it requires six quarters to make a whole year or anything else. They are also to be congratulated on the assumption of editorial office by Mr. Wisker, whose known skill inspires confidence in his efficiency, and whose character is a guarantee for honest and impartial criticism. We learn from the current number of this magazine that the return match between Messrs. Owen and Skipworth has been postponed, the latter gentleman having received an appointment in the Diocese of Lincoln, which will occupy, at all events for the present, the whole of his time.

More matter for congratulation; in truth, our record of home news would this month have been very dull indeed but for the "motley labours" of the *Illustrated London News* in search of another "Grievance." It is the peculiar misfortune of the Chess column in the journal mentioned to be always crying over spilt milk. The grievance monger in the Chess world turns to the *Illustrated London News* for asylum and sympathy as naturally as the professional tramp looks forward to the nightly refuge of the casual ward, and if the grievance has its origin in the mortifications which occasionally pursue and punish self-conceit—a fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind—the "toke and skilly" are served out with more than ordinary liberality.

Another characteristic of all controversy in the *Illustrated London News* Chess column is vagueness—a peculiarity which might be ascribed either to ignorance of the matters in dispute, or to excessive timidity arising from unpleasant experiences of the pains and penalties of libel, but which, whatever the cause, must be extremely puzzling to its readers. The general reader may have learned from the *Illustrated London News* that somebody has lately been driven to the verge of lunacy because *some* "wrong problems" have failed to obtain a prize in *some* problem tourney, but not the faintest clue is given either to the problems or to the tourney by the monomaniac who writes, or the editor who publishes his hallucinations. The one is anonymous, and the other is silent. We know, and—always anxious for the diffusion of useful or amusing information—we have taken care to let our readers know it also, that there is one "problem composer" in the world who believes that a problem should be judged by the author's intention in the work, and not by the work itself. When you have discovered a solution which complies with the conditions as satisfactorily as his own, this "problem composer" says he did not intend it, just as the child who has committed any fault incident to babyhood says it was not "done on purpose," and believes that the plea is a good one. We do not presume to identify "our own composer" with the correspondent of the *Exile;* indeed, we have no grounds for doing so, beyond the singular agreement that exists between the pair on the subject of wrong problems, and a strong impression that there cannot be two persons at large who seriously entertain such views. But, on the other hand, there is the consideration that even the "Only Jones" of the problem world would hardly appear as the prosecutor in a charge of "cribbing" before he had cleared himself of the stain he endeavours to fix, to all appearances, upon another. So all this is the merest speculation. Let us hope that before our next number appears the *Illustrated London News* will let us know what it is all about. In such case we promise, as faithful chroniclers, to communicate the stirring intelligence to the Chess world. Our welcome guest and—notwithstanding his satirical turn—good-natured friend, *Figaro*, has allotted a corner to Chess ("*Bravo, Figaro, bravo, bravissimo, bravo!*") and, most fortunate of men, has obtained Herr Lowenthal for his Chess editor. Caissa's new recruit has our best wishes for his success.

The revival of *La Stratégie* will do good service to the cause of Chess in France. Already a new star has appeared, in the person of M. Moriau, of Lyons, who is destined, says *La Stratégie*, to take a high place among the very strongest players.

From America we have received the news that the Problem Tourney in connection with the *Western Congress*, held lately at Cleveland, has been decided in favour of Mr. T. M. Brown, of Roehampton;

Mr. Henry Northparte, of Toronto, Canada, and Mr. Jacob Elson, of Philadelphia, in the order named for the first, second and third prizes respectively. A book of the Congress, edited by Captain McKenzie, will be issued in a short time.

A match of three games has recently been played in New York, between Mr. Pindar, late of Manchester, and Captain McKenzie, the latter giving the odds of Queen's Knight, and the former betting three to one upon himself in every game, and resulted in favour of the gallant Captain, who won two games out of the three.

The *Hartford Times* and the *Dubuque Chess Journal* are as amusing and instructive as ever, and the *Spirit of the Times* imparts a special interest to its Chess corner by the valuable analytical notes appended to the games played in the late Congress at Cleveland.

The first of the competing problems in the tourney of the *Western Advertiser* (London, Canada) has appeared. We hope our friends at home will aid, by their contributions, this enterprise of our Canadian contemporary in behalf of the Royal game.

The intercolonial match between Sydney and Melbourne was played, by telegraph, on the 9th November last. Although Victoria won, the victory was not such a hollow one as was predicted by "Farzin," a correspondent of the *Sydney Town and Country Journal*, who assumed, in relation to the Sydney players, the office of "candid friend," and in a letter, distinguished by outspoken, not to say—as has been said, "vitriolic" criticism—laid bare the shortcomings of the players of New South Wales. We are ourselves too far from the scene, and too ignorant of the actors in it, to pronounce an opinion upon the justice or injustice of "Farzin's" commentary, but we are quite clear upon the point that such a knout as "Farzin" wields should not be used without the greatest provocation.

In reference to Australian Chess, we have lately observed a marked improvement in the problems of our colonial friends, as regards depth of combination and skill in construction. We take this opportunity of referring them to No. 96 in this number, contributed by the greatest English composer of this or any other time, —Mr. Frank Healey.

LAWS OF CHESS.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—Much as I desire to avoid all appearance of discourtesy, I am unable to forbear the expression of—to use the mildest term—my extreme regret that a gentleman, who refers to one of the finest passages in the choruses of Æschylus as the production of one of the seven sages of Greece (!) should venture to travesty the perfect original into such execrable doggerel as your correspondent "Suburban" has done. I will not dwell upon what appears to me the unpardonable levity of his tone—that is a mere matter of taste. But, as a gentleman and a scholar, you, sir, cannot fail to remember the remarkable passage to which he refers—

ἀληθες ὀὐδεν
καινον ὀὐδεν
Ματαιοτης Ματαιοτητων

Literally translated—"True is nothing, new is nothing—vanity of vanities." It is the grand, though heathen, refrain of the glorious epic chanted by the author of Ecclesiastes!—and this is the passage, of all others—which "Suburban" selects as a fit subject for parody! and, "vanity of vanities," is travestied into—"and it don't signify!"

But, bad as it is, this is not all. I am not what is called a "literary man," although I have not forgotten my classics. I had heard of Hudibras, which I knew by report, to have been the great political squib of its day, and I felt most desirous to see what had really been said about the "gentle game" of Chess in a rare work, described by "Suburban" as "to be seen only at the British Museum and Bodleian Libraries." I found a spare day last week, and I journeyed to London on purpose. I called at our noble Museum, and introduced myself to one of the librarians, explaining the object of my visit. I could not imagine why, but he seemed to be both surprised and amused. However, he politely told me that their only copy of Hudibras had been either mislaid or stolen within the previous six months, and that, so far from its being an extremely rare work, they had not taken the trouble to replace it, but that it certainly could be obtained on inquiry at the principal bookstalls. He also informed me that instead of its having been written, as "Suburban" states, in the reign of Cromwell, it was in fact the production of the celebrated and excellent Bishop Butler, also the author of "Butler's Analogy," who died A.D. 1750, or thereabouts, a full century later than Cromwell!

The position of my informant renders his statement entirely above suspicion, and I do very much wish to know what "Suburban" means. I have read "Butler's Analogy," and I confidently assert that the lines quoted by "Suburban"—

> "Ah, me, what perils circumambit,
> The wight who plays the Danish Gambit,"

could not have been written by the author of that admirable work. They are wholly foreign to the tone of that powerful mind.

In any event, I shall not further notice the illogical arguments or (and he richly deserves them) the bad dreams of your flippant correspondent, "Suburban."

I address myself to your correspondent "Civis," with feelings of much respect. *He* has treated the subject in the dignified manner which its importance demands. And, as he adopts my argument, and thinks that the King *may*, "according to law," place himself in check, provided the piece to which he is exposed cannot capture him, I am gratified at receiving the support of a gentleman evidently of learning and experience. I entirely concur in his suggestion that a general meeting should be called—a Chess "Witena-gemot," or "Great Council of the Nation," to decide a subject so important. Learning, experience, and temper will be required; and if the result *should* parallel the conclusions of another celebrated assemblage of dignitaries, who

. . . . . "reasoned high
Of Fate—Freewill—Foreknowledge absolute—
And found no end—in wondering mazes lost,"

Who could feel surprised? For my own part, I think much additional weight would be attached to their ultimate decision if they were assisted by a "deputation," selected equally from the members of the Privy Council and the Board of Trade. But whatever steps may be adopted, I trust no time may be lost. The flame is spreading (!) The younger ladies of my once happy household are naturally of an argumentative disposition, and one of them, to my great grief and disgust, has already become a professed *Suburbanite!*

15th February 1872. Yours anxiously, RUSTICUS.

ANNUAL DINNER AT THE CITY OF LONDON CHESS CLUB.

A DINNER in the City is a phrase which conveys to the mind of every person acquainted with that fortuitous concourse of casual bricks and casual stones recollections of culinary and gastronomic exploits such as we have never found associated with any other locality, for whether it is the case of a luncheon at the Bay Tree, or a Guildhall banquet, the fame of the City extends from "realms of hyperborean ice to the twin capes of Hope and Horn" more or less. With such a reputation to sustain, and the anticipations inspired by it to satisfy, it is no small boast for the City Chess players that they have added to the one and fully realised the other. The festival under notice was held on the 7th ult., at the rooms of the City Club in Bishopsgate Street, and attracted the attendance of over sixty members and visitors. Among the latter were the representatives of several metropolitan Chess publications. The chair was occupied by Herr Lowenthal, the President of the Club, and the vice-chair by Mr. Chappell.

The President, in proposing the usual loyal toasts, expressed in happy terms the sympathy of the members with the national feeling excited by the late illness of the Prince of Wales, and then came to the toast of the evening, "The City of London Chess Club." We much regret that the unusual pressure on our space renders us unable to give the President's speech in its entirety. We must perforce content ourselves with recording that he traced the history of the Club, from its formation in 1852, to the present time, congratulated the members upon the accession to their number of such players of repute as Steinitz, Potter and Blackburne, and concluded a graceful and eloquent speech by a well-deserved tribute to the late President, Mr. W. T. Chappell.

Then followed a "long and honourable line" of toasts to the various officials of the Club, which, lacking the "key of officer and office," we are unable to particularise. We retain, however, a general impression that never before has there been exhibited in a miscellaneous assemblage of Englishmen such remarkable talent for public speaking. Mr. Potter, whose "practice in the brave squares of battle" might be expected to unfit him for the "set phrase of peace," gave an excellent speech. Mr. Howard, the Honorary Treasurer, declared that his office was a "sinecure," as the money came in without an effort on his part; and Mr. Down, the Honorary Secretary, obtained, in the language of the law, "a safe deliverance" of the joke of the evening. In comparing Club with drawing-room play, Mr. Down betrayed at once his skill and his sense of humour by remarking that in the latter you "*begin as you like*, and end in the same way." Mr. Chappell proposed "The Health of the Chairman, Mr. Lowenthal," whose feats in tilt and tourney, for upwards of three-quarters of a century, he eulogised, referring more particularly to his chivalrous acceptance of Mr. Morphy's challenge, when the self-styled leader of English Chess declined an encounter with the formidable American player.

Mr. Bradlaugh, whose appearance, like the landscape painter's figure with a "bit of red," served to heighten the picture, next proposed "The Press," and coupled with the toast the name of Mr. Mossop, of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS, who, in his relation to that journal was, he affirmed, "the trump card."

Mr. Mossop said, that it always gave him pleasure to meet the members of the City of London Club, for their enthusiasm and liberality in the cause of Chess had no rival in this country. They well deserved the successes so graphically depicted in their President's speech that evening, but from what had just transpired, he had come to the conclusion that the Club had attained their ends by the aid of supernatural agencies. In the first instance they had, according to Mr. Chappell, a President who played Chess before he was born (laughter), a Secretary who, in the domestic circle, opened the game as he liked, and checkmated in a similar manner (laughter), and, greatest wonder of all, a Treasurer with money in hand, who announced that his office was a sinecure. He assumed that, although the Press was associated with his name, the toast referred more particularly to the Chess press, and in this connection the name of Mr. George Walker was necessarily foremost. For nearly forty years past that gentleman had conducted the Chess department in *Bell's Life*, and a more impartial or fair-minded critic the Chess world had never seen. Mr. Mossop next referred to Mr. Staunton, and was proceeding to say that in his opinion that gentleman was the best player of his time, but was interrupted by expressions of dissent from all parts of the room, and, after a graceful compliment to the labours of Mr. Lowenthal and Mr. Skipworth, in the cause of Chess, concluded by urging upon the younger members that the game should be considered the pastime, not the business of their lives.

"The Visitors" was the last toast proposed by the President, in connection with which he named Mr. Duffy, who returned thanks.

The proceedings, which were characterised throughout by the greatest harmony, terminated at a late hour, and, to our mind, point the moral that there is a peculiar fitness of things in a meeting of Chess players for the joint purposes of eating and drinking. Rivalry in Chess does, after all, occasionally produce differences of opinion, and an unvarying routine of emulation is perhaps the very worst kind of dissipation in which a man can indulge.

The Club dinner provides, in a double sense, a refreshing relief from this perpetual antagonism. On such occasions every one appears to be gifted with microscopic eyes for the virtues of his fellows, and even the smallest shrimp may hope to find a new dwelling assigned to him in the shell of a lobster. We are all Philidor's and Morphy's when the cloth is removed, and are our-

selves so satisfied of this that we listen with unruffled complacency whilst the man with whom perhaps we had a little tiff a few days ago declares, with Kent, that his life he—

"Never held but as a pawn,
To wage against our enemies."

It does not detract from the moral advantages of this charitable excitement, even if it leads to the reflection that a *dindon aux truffes*, with champagne, will work a revolution in opinions invincible to dry argument—or that the most solid convictions, like the breath of Sir Roger de Coverley's barber, may be "mollified by a breakfast"—at all events, those who had the good fortune to be present on the occasion of the Annual Dinner of the City of London Chess Club will agree with us in the conclusion, that no pleasanter bond of Union can be devised for the brotherhood of Chess than the good feeling which springs from good eating and drinking.

EDGAR ALLEN POE ON CHESS, DRAUGHTS AND WHIST.*

THE faculty of re-solution is possibly much invigorated by mathematical study, and especially by that highest branch of it which, unjustly, and merely on account of its retrograde operations, has been called, as if *par excellence*, analysis. Yet, to calculate is not in itself to analyse. A Chess player, for example, does the one without effort at the other. It follows that the game of Chess, in its effects upon mental character, is greatly misunderstood. I am not now writing a treatise, but simply prefacing a somewhat peculiar narrative by observations very much at random; I will therefore take occasion to assert that the higher powers of the reflective intellect are more decidedly and more usefully tasked by the unostentatious game of Draughts than by all the elaborate frivolity of Chess. In this latter, where the pieces have different and *bizarre* motions, with various and variable values, what is only complex is mistaken (a not unusual error) for what is profound. The *attention* is here called powerfully into play. If it flag for an instant, an oversight is committed, resulting in injury or defeat. The possible moves being not only manifold but involute, the chances of such oversights are multiplied; and in nine cases out of ten, it is the more concentrative, rather than the more acute player who conquers. In Draughts, on the contrary, where the moves are *unique*, and have but little variation, the probabilities of inadvertence are diminished, and the mere attention being left comparatively unemployed, what advantages are obtained by either party are obtained by superior acumen. To be less abstract, let us suppose a game of Draughts where the pieces are reduced to four Kings, and where, of course, no oversight is to be expected. It is obvious that here the victory can be decided (the players being at all equal) only by some *récherché* movement, the result of some strong exertion of the intellect. Deprived of ordinary resources, the analyst throws himself into the spirit of his opponent, identifies himself therewith, and not unfrequently sees thus, at a glance, the sole methods (sometimes, indeed, absurdly simple ones) by which he may seduce into error or hurry into miscalculation.

Whist has long been noted for its influence upon what is termed the calculating power; and men of the highest order of intellect have been known to take an apparently unaccountable delight in it, whilst eschewing Chess as frivolous. Beyond doubt there is nothing of a similar nature so greatly tasking the faculty of analysis. The best Chess-player in Christendom may be little more than the best player of Chess; but proficiency in Whist implies capacity for success in all those more important undertakings where mind struggles with mind. When I say proficiency, I mean that perfection in the game which includes a comprehension of *all* the sources whence legitimate advantage may be derived. These are not only manifold but multiform, and lie frequently among recesses of thought altogether inaccessible to the ordinary understanding. To observe attentively is to remember distinctly; and so far, the concentrative Chess player will do very well at Whist, while the rules of Hoyle (themselves based upon the mere mechanism of the game) are sufficiently and generally comprehensible. Thus, to have a retentive memory and to proceed by "the book," are points commonly regarded as the sum total of good playing. But it is in matters beyond the limits of mere rule that the skill of the analyst is evinced; he makes, in silence, a host of observations and inferences. So, perhaps, do his companions; and the difference in the extent of the information obtained lies not so much in the validity of the inference as in the quality of the observation. The necessary knowledge is that of *what* to observe. Our player confines himself not at all; nor, because the game is the object, does he reject deductions from things external to the game. He examines the countenance of his partner, comparing it carefully with that of each of his opponents. He considers the mode of assorting the cards in each hand, often counting trump by trump, and honour by honour, through the glances bestowed by their holders upon each. He notes every variation of faces as the play progresses, gathering a fund of thought from the differences in the expression—of certainty, of surprise, of triumph, or of chagrin. From the manner of gathering up a trick he judges whether the person taking it can make another in the suit. He recognizes what is played through feint, by the air with which it is thrown upon the table. A casual or inadvertent word; the accidental dropping or turning of a card, with the accompanying anxiety or carelessness in regard to its concealment; the counting of the tricks, with the order of their arrangement; embarrassment, hesitation, eagerness, or trepidation, all afford to his apparently intuitive perception, indications of the true state of affairs. The first two or three rounds having been played, he is in full possession of the contents of each hand, and thenceforward puts down his cards with as absolute a precision of purpose as if the rest of the party had turned outward the faces of their own.

* The Murders in the Rue Morgue. Ward, Lock & Co., Paternoster Row.

CHESS PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

ENGLAND . . . *Land and Water* (London); *Chess Players' Chronicle* (York).
SCOTLAND . . . *Weekly Star* (Glasgow).
FRANCE . . . . *La Stratégie* (Paris).
GERMANY . . . *Schachzeitung* (Leipsic); *Schachzeitung* (Berlin).
AUSTRIA . . . . *Salonblatt* (Vienna).
UNITED STATES . *Chess Journal* (Dubuque); *Turf, Field and Farm; Spirit of the Times;* and *Clipper* (New York); *City of Brooklyn* (Brooklyn); *Hartford Times* (Hartford, Conn.)
CANADA . . . . *Western Advertiser* (London, Ontario).
AUSTRALIA . . . *Australasian* and the *Leader* (Melbourne); and the *Observer* (Adelaide).

NOTICE.—All exchanges to be addressed to the Editor of WESTMINSTER PAPERS, 67 Barbican, London, E.C.

ADMIRALTY RIDDLES.

Why is Mr. Childers like a bad Chess player?—Because: 1. He made several moves without attending to the Board. 2. He sacrificed unnecessarily two of his best men. 3. When difficulties came, he was quite at sea. 4. He used the Queen too often to check all about the board. 5. He lost one valuable piece by an over set (sight), and put another *en prise* of an opposing Rock. GRIMALDI.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEMS IN THE OCTOBER NUMBER.

No. XXXVI.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 B to Q 3	1 Aught
2 Mates accordingly	

No. XXXVII.

1 Kt to Kt 7	1 K moves
2 Q to Q Kt 6	2 K moves
3 Q to Q 4 mate	

No. XXXVIII.

1 B to K B 5	1 P to Kt 5 best
2 Kt to Kt 5	2 P takes B
3 R to B 8	3 P moves
4 P takes P mate	

No. XXXIX.

1 Kt takes Q P ch	1 B to K 8
2 Kt to K 5 ch	2 B to Q 2
3 Kt to B 5	3 P moves
4 K to R 3	4 P moves
5 P to B 4	5 P moves
6 Kt to Kt 4	6 P takes Kt mate

No. XL.

1 R takes Kt P	1 P takes R (a, b)
2 Kt to B 3	2 K to B 4 dis. ch
3 Kt to Q 4 mate	
(a) 1 P Queens or B takes P	

No. XL. (*continued.*)

WHITE.	BLACK.
2 Kt to Q 2 ch	2 K moves
3 Kt or B mates accordingly	
(b) 1 K to Q 4	
2 Kt to B 7 ch	2 K moves
3 B or Kt mates	

No. XLI.

1 B takes B	1 P takes B
2 Kt takes Q	2 B takes Kt
3 B to Q 6	3 Aught
4 Q mates	

No. XLII.

1 B to B 4	1 B takes B
2 Kt to Q Kt 6	2 R takes Kt
3 Q to K Kt 8	3 Aught
4 Kt or Q mates	

No. XLIII.

1 Q to K Kt 5	1 P takes Kt
2 Q takes B	2 Kt to Q B 5
3 Q takes B mate	
If 1 B takes Q	
2 Kt to Q 5 and Kt mates	

No. XLIII. (*continued.*)

WHITE.	BLACK.
If 1 B to Q Kt 6	
2 R to Q Kt sq and mates with P or R	
If 1 B to Q B 7	
2 Q to Q B 5 and mates with Kt or B	
If 1 B to Q Kt 3	
2 Kt takes B and mates next move	

No. XLIV.

1 Q to K 2	1 B to Q 2 (a)
2 R to R 5	2 R takes B
3 Q takes P (at R 6)	3 Aught
4 Q mates	
(a) 1 R to Q 4	
2 R takes R	2 R takes B
3 R takes P ch	3 Aught
4 Q mates	

No. XLV.

1 R to R 6	1 P to Q R 4
2 R takes K B P	2 P takes P
3 R takes Kt ch	3 P takes R
4 Q to Kt 5 mate	

NOTE. — The foregoing is the author's solution, but we are unable to see any mate in four moves if Black play 1 P to K 5.

No. XLVI.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 Kt to R 6 ch	1 K to Kt 4 (a)
2 Q to K 7	2 K takes either
3 Mates accordingly	[Kt
(a) 1 K to K 4	
2 Q to K 3 ch	2 K takes P
3 Mates accordingly	

No. XLVII.

1 Q to Q 8	1 K to B 5 (a)
2 Q takes P ch	2 K moves
3 Q mates	
(a) 1 P takes Kt	
2 Q to Kt 5	2 Aught
3 Mates	

NOTE.—There are other variations, but the foregoing are the best.

No. XLVIII.

1 Kt to Q 7 ch	1 Q takes Kt
2 B to Q 4 ch	2 K takes B (a)
3 Q to R 8 ch	3 Aught
4 Q mates	
(a) 2 K to B 5	
3 Q to K 4 and mates next move	

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEMS IN THE NOVEMBER NUMBER.

No. XLIX.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 B to Q 3 ch	1 P to K 7
2 Q to R 7	2 Aught
3 Q mates	

No. L.

1 Q to K sq ch	1 Q takes Q
2 P to B 3 ch	2 K takes R
3 Kt to B 5	3 Aught
4 Kt to K 3 double ch and mate	
If 1 B to K 6	
2 Kt to Q 2 ch	2 K to B 5
3 R to K B 5 ch	3 K to Kt 5
4 P to B 3 mate	

No. LI.

1 P to K 8 (a Bishop)	1 P to Kt 8 (a Bi-
2 B to Kt 6	2 Aught [shop
3 Mates	
If 1 Pawn becomes	[a Knight
2 B to Q 7, &c.	
Pawn becomes	[a Q or R
2 B to Kt 5, &c.	

No. LII.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 R to Kt 4	1 B takes B
2 Kt takes B ch	2 R takes Kt
3 Kt to K 3 ch	3 K moves
4 R to K 4 mate	

NOTE.—The White Kt at Q R 2 should be a black one.

No. LIII.

1 Kt to K B 5	1 K or B takes
2 B or Kt mates	[Kt

No. LIV.

1 B to K B 4	1 Aught
2 Kt, B or Q mates	

No. LV.

1 B to Q Kt 4	1 K moves
2 B to Q B 2	2 K moves
3 Mates accordingly	

No. LVI.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 P to R 4	1 P moves
2 B to Q R 2	2 K takes P
3 Kt mates	

No. LVII.

1 Kt (from B 4) to K 2 ch	1 K moves
2 B to K R 2	2 K takes B
3 Kt to B 3 ch	3 K moves
4 Kt to Kt 3 mate	

No. LVIII.

1 Kt to Q 4	1 K takes Kt best
2 Q to K 2	2 Anything
3 B to Q R 3	3 Anything
4 B to Q Kt 2 mate	

No. LIX.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 B to K 4 ch	1 R to Kt 2
2 B to K Kt 2	2 P to Q B 7
3 R to K B 3	3 R moves
4 R to K B 8 dis. ch and mate	

NOTE.—The White Queen in this diagram should be a White King.

No. LX.

1 Kt takes P (at Q 3)	1 P takes Kt best
2 R to B 5 ch	2 Kt P takes R
3 B to Q 5	3 P takes B
4 P to Q B 5	4 Anything
5 Q to Q B 8 mate	

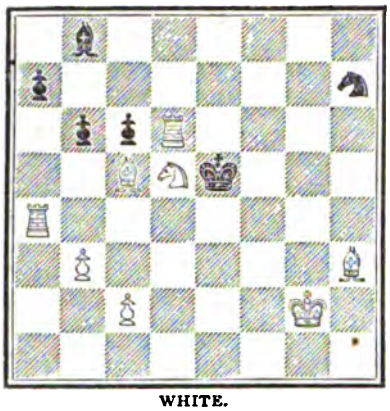
No. LXI.

1 Kt to Kt 5	1 K or R moves
2 Kt to K 6	2 K or R moves
3 K to B 7	3 K or R moves
4 K to B 8	4 K or R moves
5 K to Q 8	5 K or R moves
6 Kt to Kt 7	6 K or R moves
7 Kt to B 5	7 K to Kt sq best
8 Kt to Q 6	8 P takes Kt
9 K to Q 7, and wins	

TOURNEY PROBLEMS.

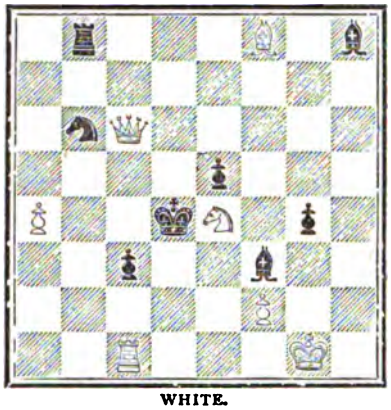
"Who Won the Battle of Waterloo?"

No. LXXXIV.—Black.



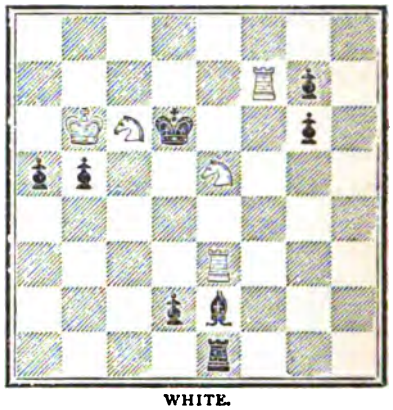
WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. LXXXV.—Black.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

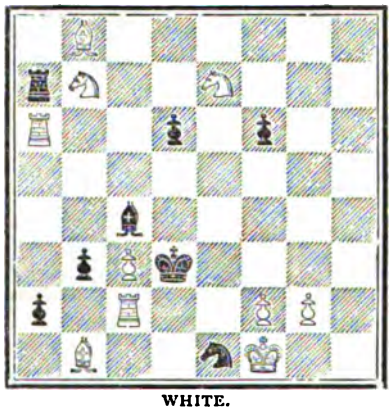
No. LXXXVI.—Black.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

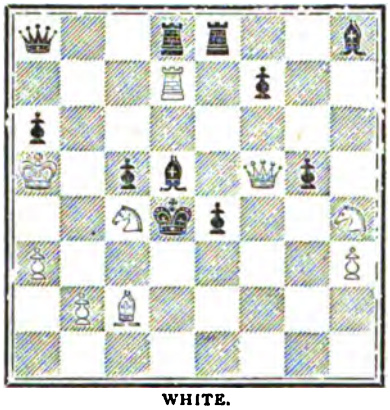
"Too many Cooks."

No. LXXXVII.—Black.



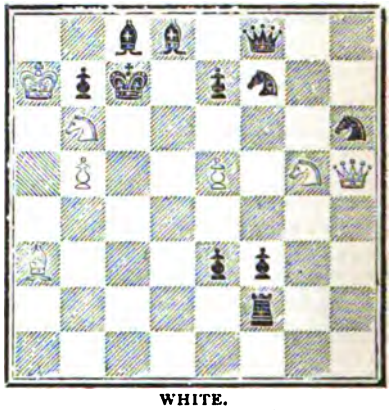
WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. LXXXVIII.—Black.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

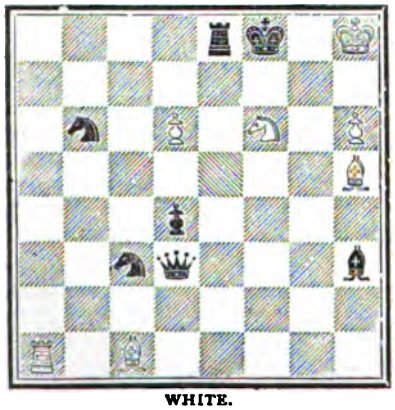
No. LXXXIX.—Black.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

"Qui Perd Peche."

No. XC.—Black.

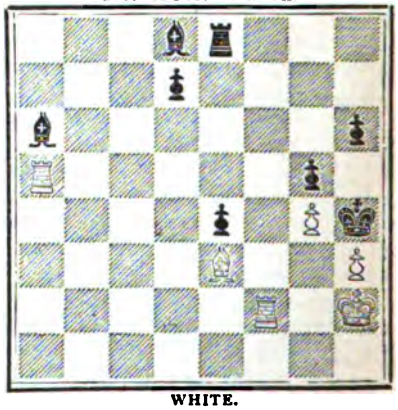


WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. XCI.—Black.

WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

No. XCII.—Black.

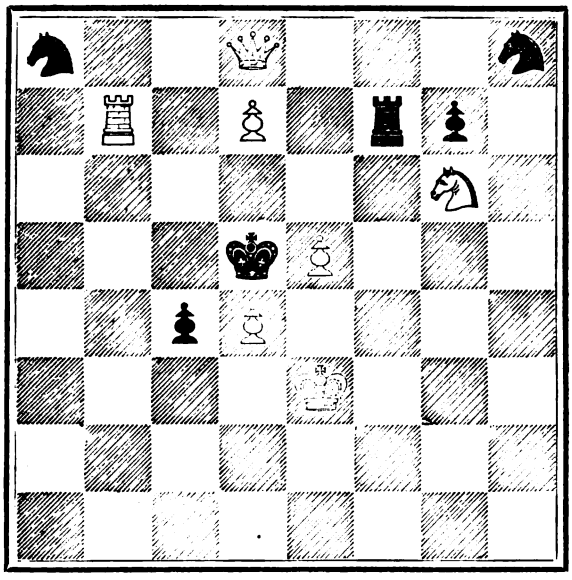


WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

PROBLEMS.

PROBLEM No. XCIII.—By JAMES PIERCE.

BLACK.

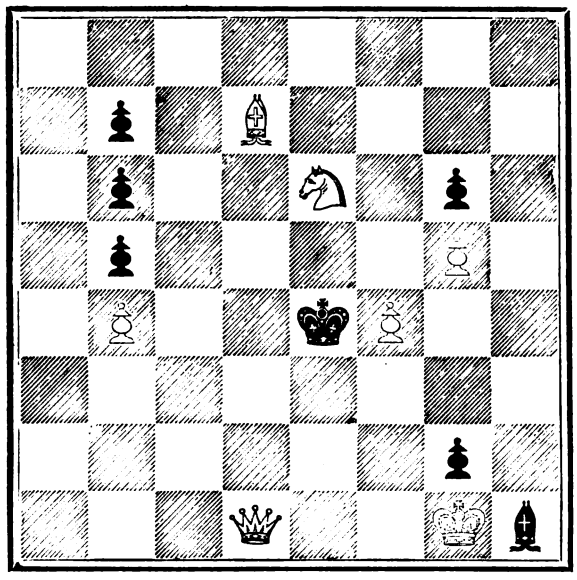


WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. XCIV.—By J. W. ABBOTT.

BLACK.

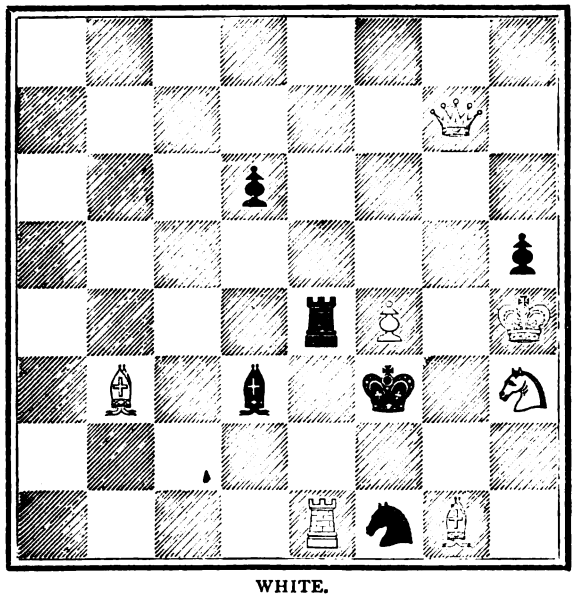


WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. XCV.—By HERR KLING.

BLACK.

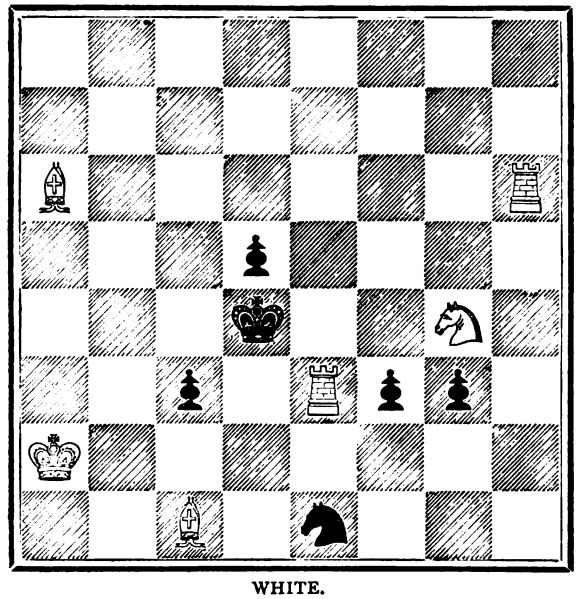


WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

No. XCVI.—By F. HEALEY.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves

TOURNEY PROBLEMS.

IN addition to those given in our last number, we have received sets of problems bearing the following mottoes :—

12. "Tandem Aliquando."
13. "Avec vous contre eux."
14. "Les trois Sphinx."
15. "Fais ce que dom advienne que pourra."
16. "Cedo Majori."
17. "As you like it."
18. "Abracadabra."
19. "Non Omnes possumus omnia."
20. "Thus, myrrha, et aurum."
21. "Dürch Kampf züm Sieg."

GAME LX.—Played between the Rev. C. E. RANKEN and Mr. B. W. FISHER.

Evans' Gambit.

Black. Mr. C. E. RANKEN.	White. Mr. B. W. FISHER.	Black. Mr. C. E. RANKEN.	White. Mr. B. W. FISHER.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	12. B takes P ch	12. K to B sq
2. Kt to K B 3	2. Kt to Q B 3	13. P takes P	13. P takes P
3. B to B 4	3. B to B 4	14. R to Q sq (c)	14. Kt to K 2
4. P to Q Kt 4	4. B takes Kt P	15. R takes Q P	15. B to Q 2
5. P to Q B 3	5. B to R 4	16. B to K R 5	16. P to K Kt 3
6. Castles	6. Kt to K B 3	17. Kt to K Kt 5	17. Q to K sq
7. B to Q R 3	7. P to Q 3	18. R takes B	18. B to K B 3
8. P to Q 4	8. Kt takes K P	19. Kt to K 6 ch	19. K to Kt sq
9. P takes P	9. Kt takes Q B P (a)	20. Kt to Q B 7 ch	20. Q to K B 2
10. Kt takes Kt	10. B takes Kt	21. Kt takes R	
11. Q to Q Kt 3 (b)	11. B takes R	And wins	

(a) An error, he should have castled.

(b) Capitally played, taking advantage of White's loss of time.

(c) Much better than taking the B.

GAME LXI.—Played between Messrs. W. SEARLE and WILLIAMS HOCKIN.

McDonnell's Double Gambit.

Black. Mr. W. SEARLE.	White. Mr. W. HOCKIN.	Black. Mr. W. SEARLE.	White. Mr. W. HOCKIN.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	20. Kt takes B	20. R P takes Kt
2. B to Q B 4	2. B to Q B 4	21. R takes B	21. K R to Q sq
3. P to Q Kt 4	3. B takes Q Kt P	22. K R to Q 3	22. Q to K 5
4. P to K B 4	4. P to Q 3 (a)	23. Q to Q B 2	23. P to Q B 4
5. P to Q B 3	5. B to Q B 4	24. P to Q 5	24. Q R to Q R 5 (d)
6. P to Q 4	6. P takes Q P	25. Q R to Q sq	25. Q takes B P
7. P takes K P	7. B to Q Kt 3	26. Q R to K sq	26. Q R to Q 5
8. Kt to K B 3	8. Q Kt to B 3	27. K R to K 3	27. R to K B sq
9. Castles	9. Kt to K B 3	28. Q to Q Kt 2	28. Q R to Q Kt 5
10. B to Q Kt 2	10. Castles	29. Q to K 2	29. Q to Q 3
11. Q Kt to Q 2	11. P to Q 4	30. K R to K 8	30. P to K Kt 3
12. P takes P	12. K Kt takes P	31. Q to K B 3	31. R to Q 5
13. Q Kt to K 4 (b)	13. K Kt to K 6	32. R to K B sq	32. Q takes P
14. Q to Q Kt 3	14. Q Kt to Q R 4 (c)	33. R takes R	33. K takes R
15. Q takes K Kt	15. Kt takes B	34. Q to K B 6	34. K to K Kt sq
16. Q to Q B 3	16. Kt takes B	35. Q takes P at Q Kt 3	35. R to Q 7
17. Q takes Kt	17. B to K Kt 5	36. R to K B 2	36. R to Q 8 ch
18. Q Kt to Q B 5	18. Q to Q 4	37. R to K B sq	37. Q to Q 5 ch
19. Q Kt to Q R 4	19. B takes K Kt	38. K to R sq	38. R takes R mate

(a) P to Q 4 is the usual move at this point.

(b) It would have been safer to have taken off the Kt at once.

(c) We cannot see White's objection to capturing the Rook.

(d) R takes Q P would have been better, and apparently would have finished the game at once.

GAME LXII.

CORRESPONDENCE GAME.—RUY LOPEZ KNIGHTS' GAME.

White.	Black.
THOMAS LONG. (Of Dublin.)	Rev. E. BUCKLEY. (Of Dublin.)
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to Q B 3
3 B to Kt 5	3 P to Q R 3
4 B to R 4	4 Kt to K B 3 (a)
5 P to Q 3 (b)	5 B to Q B 4
6 B to K 3 (c)	6 Q to K 2
7 B takes B	7 Q takes B
8 P to Q B 3	8 P to Q Kt 4
9 B to B 2	9 P to Q 4
10 P takes P	10 Q takes P
11 Castles	11 Castles
12 Q Kt to Q 2	12 B to K Kt 5
13 Q to K sq	13 K R to K sq
14 Kt to Kt 5	14 B to R 4 (d)
15 Q to K 3	15 Kt to K 2
16 K Kt to K 4	16 Q R to Q sq
17 Kt takes Kt ch	17 P takes Kt
18 Kt to K 4	18 Q to B 3
19 P to K B 4	19 P to K B 4
20 Kt to Kt 3	20 Kt to Q 4
21 Q to Q B sq (f)	21 B to Kt 3 (g)
22 P takes P	22 P to B 5
23 Kt to K 4	23 R takes P
24 K to R sq	24 P to K B 4
25 Kt to Kt 5	25 Kt to K 6
26 R to B 2	26 B to R 4 (h)
27 B to Kt 3 ch	27 K to R sq
28 P to Q 4 (k)	28 R to K 2
29 P to Q 5	29 Q to Q Kt 3
30 Kt to K 6 (l)	30 R takes Kt
31 P takes R	31 Kt to Q 8
32 R takes P	Resigns. (m)

(a) This is not so safe a defence as 4 B to K 2.

(b) The authors of the *Grosses Schach Handbuch* recommend 5 Castles, and give the following variations in support of their view:—

5 Castles	5 B to K 2 (a)
6 Kt to Q B 3	6 P to Q Kt 4
7 B to Kt 3	7 P to Q 3
8 P to Q 3	8 Castles
9 B to K 3	

And White has the better game.

(a)

	5 Kt takes P
6 R to K sq	6 Kt to K B 3
7 P to Q 4	7 P to K 5
8 P to Q 5	8 Kt to K 2
9 P to Q 6	9 P takes P
10 B to K Kt 5	10 P takes Kt
11 B takes Kt	11 P takes B
12 Q takes Q P	12 R to K Kt sq
13 Kt to Q B 3	13 R takes P ch
14 K to R sq	14 R to Kt 4
15 Kt to Q 5	15 R takes Kt
16 Q takes R	

And White wins by playing next move—
17 B to Q Kt 3.

(c) An unusual move.

(d) White threatened B to Q Kt 3 next move, winning the exchange, and this is Black's best reply.

(e) If Kt to K B 4, White plays Q to Kt 5, but we think Black might have taken off the Kt with Kt safely.

(f) With the view of maintaining an attack on the advanced K B P.

(g) B to Kt 5 looks stronger, and indeed Black's 26th move shows that the Bishop is required to co-operate in the attack he is now preparing.

(h) If Kt takes P, then

R takes Kt	R to K 7
Q to K B sq, &c.	

(k) White has now repelled the short attack, and pursues the game with vigour

(l) Better than R takes P, to which Black could reply by Kt takes Kt P, &c.

(m) For if Kt to B 7 ch, then

R takes Kt	Q takes R
Q to Kt 5	R to K Kt sq
Q to B 6 ch	R to Kt 2
B to Q 5, &c.	

GAME LXIII.

Played, by correspondence, between two members of the Caissa Club.

EVAN'S GAMBIT.

White.	Black.
J. BAYNE.	R. GREEN.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to Q B 3
3 B to Q B 4	3 B to Q B 4
4 P to Q Kt 4	4 B takes P
5 P to Q B 3	5 B to Q B 4
6 P to Q 4	6 P takes P
7 Castles	7 P to Q 3
8 P takes P	8 B to Q Kt 3
9 Q Kt to B 3	9 Kt to Q R 4
10 B to Q 3	10 Kt to K 2
11 P to Q 5	11 Castles
12 B to Q Kt 2	12 B to K Kt 5 (a)
13 P to K 5 (b)	13 P takes P (c)
14 B takes K R P ch	14 K takes B (d)
15 Kt to K Kt 5 ch	15 K to Kt 3 (e)
16 Q takes B	16 Q to Q B sq (f)
17 Kt to Kt 6 dis ch	17 K to R 3
18 Q to K Kt 5 ch	18 K to R 2
19 Q takes Kt P mate	

(a) Kt to Kt 3 is the usual and proper move at this point.

(b) Very well conceived.

(c) He should have captured the King's Knight before taking the proffered Pawn.

(d) Black would have done better by moving his King to R sq.

(e) Suicidal. He should have played K to Kt sq. Suppose—

	K to Kt sq
Q takes B	Q to Q B sq
Q to R 4	Q to K B 4, &c.

(f) P to K B 4 would have delayed, but would not have altered the result.

GAME LXIV.

Played, by correspondence, between two members of the Caissa Club.

SCOTCH GAMBIT.

White.	Black.
W. N. WALKER.	R. GREEN.
1 P to K 4	1 P to K 4
2 Kt to K B 3	2 Kt to Q B 3
3 P to Q 4	3 P takes P
4 Kt takes P	4 B to Q B 4 (a)
5 B to K 3 (b)	5 Q to K B 3
6 P to Q B 3	6 P to Q 3
7 B to Q B 4	7 B to K 3
8 Kt takes Q B	8 P takes Kt
9 B takes B	9 Q to K Kt 3 (c)
10 B to K 3	10 Q takes Kt P
11 R to K B sq	11 Q takes K P
12 Kt to Q 2	12 Q to K 4
13 Q to K Kt 4	13 P to Q 4
14 B to Q Kt 5	14 K Kt to K 2
15 Kt to K B 3	15 Q to K B 3
16 B to K Kt 5 (d)	16 Q to K Kt 3
17 Kt to K 5	17 Q to Q B 7
18 Q to K 2 (e)	18 Q takes Q ch
19 K takes Q	19 Castles K side
20 Kt takes Kt	20 Kt takes Kt
21 B takes Kt	21 P takes B
22 R to K Kt sq	22 R to K B 2
23 R to K Kt 4	23 P to K Kt 3
24 Q R to K Kt sq	24 P to K 4
25 B to K 3	25 R to K B 4
26 P to K R 4	26 P to Q R 4
27 R to K Kt 5	27 K to K B 2
28 R takes R	28 P takes R
29 B to K R 6	29 R to K Kt sq
30 R takes R	30 K takes R
31 B to K Kt 5	31 P to Q R 5
32 B to Q 8	32 P to K 5
33 B takes P	33 P to Q B 4
34 B to Q Kt 6	34 P to Q B 5
35 K to K 3	35 K to K B 2
36 K to K B 4	36 K to K B 3
37 P to K R 5 (f)	37 P to K R 3
38 B to Q B 5	38 K to K 3
39 B to Q 4	Black Resigns

(a) The best reply to White's last move.

(b) The *Grosses Schach Handbuch* gives the following at this juncture:—

Kt takes Kt	Q to K B 3
Q to K B 3	Q takes Q
P takes Q	Kt P takes Kt
B to K B 4	P to Q 3
B to Q B 4	B to K 3

Kt to Q 2, and the game is probably equal.

(c) Black prefers sacrificing his Bishop for the two Pawns, to losing his Q P for nothing by the check at K R 5.

(d) All this is very well played by White.

(e) R to Q B sq would have given White a decisive superiority in position and force.

(f) White plays the End Game very well indeed.

GAME LXV.

Played between H. E. KIDSON and A. BURN jun. Mr. B. giving odds of P and two moves.

White.	Black.
H. E. KIDSON.	A. BURN jun.
1 P to K 4	1
2 P to Q 4	2 P to K 3
3 P to K 5	3 P to Q 4
4 B to Q 3	4 P to K Kt 3
5 P to K R 4	5 K Kt to K 2
6 P to K Kt 4	6 P to Q B 4
7 P to Q B 3	7 Kt to Q B 3
8 P to K R 5	8 R to K Kt sq
9 P takes Kt P	9 P takes P
10 Kt to K B 3	10 Q to Q B 2
11 B to K 3	11 P takes P
12 P takes P	12 B to Q 2
13 Kt to K Kt 5	13 Kt to Q Kt 5
14 Kt to Q B 3	14 K Kt to Q B 3
15 P to Q R 3	15 Kt takes B
16 Q takes B	16 Kt to Q R 4
17 Kt to Q Kt 5	17 Q to Kt 3
18 P to Q R 4	18 P to Q R 3
19 Kt to K R 7 (a)	19 Castles
20 Kt takes B	20 Q R takes B
21 Kt to Q 6 ch	21 K to Kt sq
22 Q to Q B 3	22 R to R sq
23 R takes R	23 R takes R
24 K to K 2	24 R to R 6
25 P to Q Kt 4	25 Kt to Q B 3
26 P to R 5	26 Q to Q sq (b)
27 P to Kt 5	27 P takes P
28 Kt takes P (c)	28 Kt takes K P
29 Q to B 5	29 B takes Kt ch
30 Q takes B	30 Kt to Q B 5
31 P to Q R 6	31 R to R 2
32 B to B 4 ch	32 P to K 4
33 P takes P	33 P to Q Kt 3
34 P to K 6 ch (d)	34 K to R 2
35 R to Q sq	35 Q to K B 3
36 B to K 3	36 Kt takes B
37 P takes Kt	37 R to R 2 ch
38 K to Q 3	38 Q takes P
39 R to K sq	39 Q to K 5 ch
40 K to B 3	40 P to Q 5 ch (e)
41 K to Kt 3	41 Q to B 7 ch
	And mates in 2 moves.

(a) Apparently the only move to maintain the advantage.

(b) Black cannot take the Q Kt P without losing a piece, by R to Kt sq after the exchange of Queens.

(c) Seeing that if Black captures the K P with Kt an important diagonal will be opened for the White Bishop.

(d) Played without due consideration. White could now have won off hand as follows:—

P to R 7 ch	R takes P (a)
P to K 6 ch	K to Kt 2
Q to Q 7 ch	Q takes Q
R takes R ch	K takes R
P takes Q & wins.	

(a)

	K to R sq
Q to Q B 6 ch	R interposes
Q takes R ch	K takes Q
P Queens ch	Q takes Q
R takes Q	K takes R
P to Q 6 and wins	

As Black cannot stop the Pawn.

(e) Conclusive, play as White may.

WHIST.

A and B play against X and Z. A leads. The card with the double rim wins, and the card below the rimmed card is the next one led.

HAND No. 121.

Played at the Westminster Chess Club, 30th January 1872.

A's Hand—H Kg, Q, 3; S 10, 8, 7; D Kg, Kv, 6; C Kg, 8, 7, 5.

Score— . Z turns up H 6.

	A. Solomon.	X. F. H. Lewis.	B. Child.	Z. Bristow.
1	♠	♠	♠	♠
2	♡	♡	♡	♡
3	♠	♠	♠	♠
4	♡	♡	♡	♡
5	♡	♡	♡	♣
6	♠	♣	♠	♠
7	♢	♣	♢	♣
8	♣	♢	♢	♠
9	♣	♢	♣	♣
10	♢	♢	♢	♢
11	♣	♣	♢	♢
12	♣	♡	♣	♣
13	♣	♡	♣	♣

HAND No. 122.

B's Hand—D Kg, Kv, 9, 8, 3; H Kv, 10, 5; C 8, 7; S 5, 4, 3.

Score—Love All.

Z turns up S Kv.

	A.	X.	B.	Z.
1	♢	♢	♣	♢
2	♠	♠	♠	♣
3	♢	♠	♢	♢
4	♣	♣	♣	♣
5	♠	♣	♣	♣
6	♡	♡	♡	♣
7	♠	♡	♠	♣
8	♠	♣	♠	♣
9	♠	♣	♡	♣
10	♡	♣	♣	♡
11	♡	♡	♢	♡
12	♢	♣	♢	♣
13	♣	♣	♣	♢

HAND No. 123.

Played at the Westminster Chess Club, 7th February 1872.

A's Hand—D Q, Kv, 10; H 10, 9, 6, 4; C 10, 2; S Q, 5, 3, 2.

Score—Love All. Z turns up C 8.

	A. Bianchi.	X. Webster.	B. C. Mossop.	Z. Minchin.
1	♣	♣	♢	♢
2	♠	♠	♠	♠
3	♠	♠	♡	♣
4	♣	♣	♣	♣
5	♣	♣	♣	♣
6	♡	♡	♣	♣
7	♣	♠	♡	♠
8	♢	♢	♢	♢
9	♠	♣	♣	♢
10	♢	♡	♣	♣
11	♡	♡	♢	♡
12	♡	♠	♢	♣
13	♡	♡	♢	♣

HAND No. 121.

NOTES.—This game is given to us "to exhibit the folly of playing from a weak lead." Why does not A open his long suit? 3. We do not see why B does not know that the 10 was a weak lead. His own hand ought to shew this, but we assume he thought his partner was playing for a ruff. So long as there is a chance of a player thus leading, games must be lost in this way. 5. X knows that the Queen and King must fall together. 6. What possible object can A have in continuing the Spades. The play of A is in the worst possible style.

HAND No. 122.

NOTES.—Another way of losing a game. The whole game is destroyed by B finessing the Knave in the first round. A, with a very strong hand, is made to play throughout under a misconception. After the second round of Diamonds he came to the conclusion that Z was playing false, and that he had the Diamond King, notwithstanding he had put on the Ace, and although B's discard might, and probably should have made A see that B had deceived him, nothing could, in our opinion, justify B in thus playing. He has a wretched hand, and unless he will rely on A he must lose the game.

HAND No. 123.

NOTES.—We record this hand simply to exhibit this trick. An inattentive player, or one that will not take the possible chances in his favour, would have lost the game. B had two discards, and both times he got rid of a Heart. He has no Spade. A trusts B, and he therefore assumes that B's suit is Diamonds, and he discards the best as being his only chance. Query.—Ought Z to have discarded the Diamond 9?

WHIST JOTTINGS.

THE CAUSES OF BAD PLAY.

THERE are some that assume, because we play better than our predecessors, that therefore we play well; but the most ordinary observer cannot help feeling astonished at the general badness of the play. We purpose to assume the fact, and to inquire why it is that men play so ill. The most obvious cause is a want of knowledge of the leads. We have before written on this subject, but our remarks appear to have been misunderstood. We say no man can play Whist unless he masters the leads. He may get to know the leads by experience, or he may learn them from books; but the object of learning the leads is not to make more tricks, but to enable the player to know what the other players lead from. It is not the lead, as a lead, that is of so much importance, as the knowledge and power to draw inferences from the fact that a given lead should tell. Thus, if a player leads from King, 9, 4, 3, and he leads the 4, he will make just as many tricks in this suit as if he led the proper card (the 3); but if he leads the 4, his partner is in the dark as to the position of the 3. The 3 may drop on the second round, when the partner is under the impression that the lead is from 4, 3 only. He has an interval of doubt and uncertainty without any necessity for it, and whilst in this fog the opportunity of saving or winning the game may be lost. To take a common case, after the second round, the leader's suit is cleared, and it may now be advantageous to lead a trump. Instead of going for game, the partner has no choice but to play as he thinks for a ruff. Unless a player knows what it is his partner and adversaries lead from, he must play in the dark. It really seems childish to have to write that it is easier to play with your eyes open than with your eyes shut; to play with knowledge rather than without. Yet when we point out these facts to the more elderly players, they either get angry, and say we are abusing them, or they declare we want to make them book players.

Closely allied to this subject of the leads is the difference between weak and strong leads. Every tyro at the game, before he sets down to play, ought to know the distinction. Yet we see games lost day by day by players persisting in treating a forced weak lead as a strong lead, and going on with the suit with a perseverance worthy of a better cause.

Whist is a difficult game, and unless it is played in a simple and straightforward manner, it is above the comprehension of ordinary mortals. There are many players who appear to think they best attain their end by making the game incomprehensible to every one, and we suppose they trust to their own acumen to unravel the maze of their own creation.

Many of the old players show remarkable ignorance as to the position of the cards. This is not from stupidity, as many appear to imagine. The real reason is that they are spoken to by the cards in an unknown tongue. They play by no system themselves, and they do not expect any system in others; and, knowing not the position of the cards, they fail to take advantage of the information that ought to be before them. Yet, strange to say, these gentlemen, of all others, make the game unnecessarily difficult. If they cannot see the simple position, how is it likely they will see and take advantage of the more difficult ones? The point that is of the most importance in the game is attention. We must be all conscious that there are many hands played mechanically. Our mind is in sleeping, and we remain in a dreamy state with our eyes open, but incapable to take in half that is really visible. There can be but few players who have not noticed for themselves the haziness with which they play if part only of the first trick has escaped their notice. To miss one card in the first trick, has often produced in us a state of misery and uncertainty throughout the hand. If this be true of the first trick or a single card in it, see to what lengths this carelessness may go. If a player does not

realise the information to be derived from two tricks, he must be at sea for the rest of the hand. It is not simply that he has missed a Blue Peter, although we are bound to say they often commit this enormity. They have taken no trouble to ascertain the position of any of the cards in the suit or suits led. They have drawn no inferences from what they have seen, and they are thrown back on what some of our players call "intuition," but which we should rather call a "happy-go-lucky kind of play," unpleasant to every one but the adversaries. We do not mean in any way to decry "intuition," but that valuable quality should not be brought into play except on those occasions where reason is at fault. We do not want the supernatural until the natural powers are exhausted. One of the most common forms of inattention that ruins many games is where a part of a trick is missed. An uncertainty has arisen as to which was the partner's and which the adversaries' card, and on the second round our impetuous friend imagines his partner has Blue Petered. We would confidently urge the player who has got into this predicament not to make matters worse by acting on his surmise. At the end of the hand, let him acknowledge his fault, and do penance; but do not ruin the game by leading the trump with this doubt in his mind. He has brought upon himself doubt and trouble—he need not add to the offence. In a pecuniary point of view, if your partner has Blue Petered any way, you cannot lose much by not answering it. If, on the other hand, you being weak and your partner being weak, under the erroneous impression that he has signalled, you lead trumps, you but play into your adversaries' hand, and ruin the chance of saving a game which otherwise you might have done. Of the effect of inattention to the fall of the small cards, we may mention an instance we witnessed to-day. A's hand consisted of Clubs King, 10, 9; and Spades (Trumps) 2. X's hand, Hearts 2; Spades 4; Diamonds 7, 8. B's hand, Spades Ace; Clubs 2, 3; Diamonds 5. Z's hand, Hearts Ace, Queen, 4, 3. A had the lead, and wanted every trick to win the game. He knew that his partner had the trump Ace, and that there was only one other trump in, but he did not know that his partner had a Club to give him back, and he therefore led the Club, which was trumped by X, and thus the game was lost. Now, the position of the 2 in every suit should be known by every observant player, and yet here was a player of considerable experience, who knew not the position in his own suit of the 2 or the 3, either of which was sufficient for his purpose. We know there are plenty of men who consider themselves high class players, who never think of looking to such simple matters as this. We cannot agree with their estimate of their strength. Whist, which to many is a mystery, is generally a question of observation, and he who does not recollect the small cards is not a Whist player in our acceptation of the term. Included in the general term inattention, we may name the state of the score. The difference between good and bad play consists in this attention, or want of attention to the score —nay, the forgetting the turn-up card alone loses hundreds of games.

The strong, energetic, excitable beings that play Whist, generally play with more attention than others. They appear to concentrate their thoughts better upon the game than their cold-blooded friends. The hot-headed men often play much worse than the cold-blooded, for the simple reason that a hot-headed Whist player comes into the world full fledged. He has not the time or the patience to learn the rudiments of the game, otherwise he would prove a most dangerous antagonist.

Over and above the reasons we have given why Whist is played so ill is the most obvious one that Whist requires an intellect above the ordinary mass. It requires not only the attention to observe the fall of the cards, the faculty to draw the inferences as the hand proceeds, in order that at the end of the hand the position of the cards may be known, but the position being known, then comes in the faculty ingenuity to take advantage of the position for your own benefit. For example, the position of the cards being known, and trumps being out, A has King, 9, 2 of a plain suit, the King and 9 being the major tenace. Z, an opponent, has Knave, 8, 3. It is A's lead. A child of eight years of age (as the old books have it) ought to know that by leading the smallest card and placing the lead in Z's hand, A must get two tricks, and by leading the King he must lose two tricks; yet nine times out of ten, from want of attention and want of thought, the King is led in this position. This is a double dummy faculty which is comparatively little known in this country. Indeed, we believe the game double dummy is quite in its infancy here, and that we could not for a moment compete with the double dummy players of the Continent. How little we know may be judged by the very few players who can ascertain the true solution of Mr. F. H. Lewis's beautiful problems in these pages. We scarcely recal one problem that has been found out by examination of the hand without playing the cards out, and although we are glad to see the young players solve the problems by playing out the cards in different ways, the highest class players ought to solve them with a few minutes study. At any rate, until they can do this, they cannot be considered fine double-dummy players.

There are players—we use the term by courtesy—who do not count their cards, and others there are who profess to count them but do not. Many curious stories are related on this head, as for instance, where a rubber was played through with forty-eight cards, and of that other apochryphal story (we hope) where an absent gentleman, after five cards were played, of which he had won two, put his eight cards face downwards and lit his cigar, and instead of taking up his own cards placed in his hand the two tricks he had won, which happened to be all trumps. He placed the cards on the table, and claimed game, and the story goes that the claim was allowed. It is scarcely fair to call this want of attention, but in our own experience how many games have been lost by a card dropping under the table. The carelessness in exposing cards is a frightful source of loss, and the over anxiety

to get to the end of the hand, which induces men to put their cards on the table, and call game when game they are not, has lost many a small fortune. The outsiders are a constant cause of inattention. Too many of these gentlemen fancy they know more of the game than they do, and their criticisms are often unjust and occasionally ridiculously wrong. There is no player who attends to the game that is not conscious of the many mistakes he commits, and an outsider who talks incessantly is often the cause of the mistake that he so viciously points out. There are some men whose very presence, as lookers on, causes irritation and annoyance, and when they audibly criticise the play they induce a state of mind not adapted to the exercise of the best Whist faculties.

The Westminster Chess Club Challenge (Whist) Cup.

To the Editor of the Westminster Papers.

Sir,—In your last number you state that "The Cavendish Club challenged the Westminster, and succeeded in vanquishing their opponents, and thus became the holders of the Cup." This is inaccurate in two respects.

First. It was not the Cavendish Club that challenged the Westminster.

Secondly. The match was not played for the Cup, and the winners did not become the holders of it.

In support of my assertions, I beg to give an extract from a letter I wrote to you on the 12th April 1871, as follows:—"In the last number of *The Westminster Papers*, you state that challenges can at once be sent to the Cavendish Club as holders of the Challenge Cup, but this is a mistake, which I beg of you to notify in your next number. I endeavoured, both in my letters and conversation, to explain that the Cavendish Club, which is not a Whist Club, *had nothing to do with the match;* I did not assume to represent the Club itself, but only the general body of the Whist players at the Club, as expressed in my original challenge, and therefore *expressly declined to have anything to do with a Challenge Cup*, although personally favourable to the idea."

Notwithstanding this, the Westminster Chess Club sent their Cup to the Cavendish Club, but the Whist players there have had nothing to do with it, many of them, myself included, never even having seen it, neither has the challenge sent by the Westminster Club ever been submitted to them.

It is not for me to defend either the Committee or the proprietor of the Cavendish Club from any charge of discourtesy; my object is simply to show that neither I nor my fellow players have behaved in the manner that your statement, as above quoted, taken in connection with your other statements, would imply.

If the Westminster Chess Club really want another match, I am disposed to think it might be arranged, but I would still decline to have anything to do with the Cup, and would stipulate that honours should not be scored. Mogul.

[If Mogul thinks that we have said aught that can be construed to mean that the Whist Players of the Cavendish have said or done anything that could be found fault with by any one, we distinctly repudiate the intention of so doing. We have the highest opinion of the Whist representatives of the Cavendish, and believe them to be in all respects high-minded men, but we do not see what this has to do with the point. The proprietor of the Cavendish, who represents the Cavendish, has got the Cup, and the Westminster cannot get it back. This is all we said or meant to say, and we regret to have to say it again. It is certainly most unfortunate that a challenge commenced and continued in such a friendly spirit should end in such a disagreeable manner, but this is certainly not the fault of the players on either side.

With reference to the last suggestion, we will only say that as soon as the Committee of the Westminster resolved to challenge for the Cup, upwards of twenty members expressed their willingness to play; but we think the first thing to do, before making arrangements for another fight, is to get back the Cup. We believe we are right in stating that the Westminster would only play for the Cup by the Cup rules, and according to the ordinary laws of Whist.—Ed.]

DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM, No. LXI.

By Mr. F. H. LEWIS.

A's Hand.—H Kv, 6; S Ace, Q, Kv; C 5, 4, 3; D Ace, Q, 10, 5, 4.

X's Hand.—H Kg, 8, 7; S 6, 5, 4, 3, 2; C 9, 8, 7, 6; D 8.

B's Hand.—H Ace, Q, 10, 9, 3; S 10, 9, 8, 7; C 10, 2; D 3, 2.

Z's Hand.—H 5, 4, 2; S Kg; C Ace, Kg, Q, Kv; D Kg, Kv, 9, 7, 6.

Hearts trumps.—A to lead, and A and B to make all 13 tricks.

THE PACK OF CARDS.

A NOBLEMAN, who kept a great number of servants, reposed considerable confidence in one of them, which excited a jealousy in the others, who, in order to prejudice their master against him, accused him of being a notorious gamester. Jack was called up, and closely interrogated, but he denied the fact, at the same time declaring that he never played a card in his life.

To be more fully convinced, the gentleman ordered him to be searched, when, behold, a pack of cards was found in his pocket. Highly incensed at Jack's want of veracity, the nobleman demanded, in a rage, how he dared to persist in an untruth.

"My Lord," replied he, "I certainly do not know the meaning of a card; the bundle in my pocket is an almanack."

"Your almanack, indeed! Then I desire that you will prove it."

"Well, sir, I will begin. There are four suits in the pack—that imitates the four quarters of the year. As there are thirteen cards in each suit, so there are thirteen weeks in the quarter; there are the same number of lunations, and the twelve signs of the zodiac, through which the sun steers his diurnal course in one year. There are fifty-two cards in a pack—that directly answers for the number of weeks in the year. Examine them more minutely, and you will find three hundred and sixty-five spots—as many as there are days in the year. I will prove it to be my prayer-book also.

"I look upon the four suits as representing the four prevailing religions—Christianity, Judaism, Mahommedanism, and Paganism; the twelve court-cards remind me of the twelve Patriarchs, from whom sprang the twelve tribes of Israel; the twelve Apostles; the twelve articles of Christian faith. The king reminds me of the allegiance due to his majesty. The queen of the same to her majesty. The ten brings to my recollection the ten cities on the plains of Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed by fire and brimstone from Heaven, the ten plagues of Egypt, the ten commandments, the ten tribes cut off from their vice. The nine reminds me of the nine muses; the nine noble orders among men. The eight reminds me of the eight beatitudes; the eight persons saved in Noah's Ark; the eight mentioned in the Scripture to be released from death to life. The seven reminds me of the seven administering spirits that stand before the throne of God; the seven seals wherewith the book of life is sealed; the seven liberal arts and sciences given by God for the instruction of man; the seven wonders of the world. The six, of the six petitions contained in the Lord's prayer. The five reminds me of the senses given by God to man; hearing, feeling, seeing, tasting, and smelling. The four puts me in mind of the four evangelists; the four seasons of the year. The three reminds me of the Trinity; the three hours our Saviour was on the cross; the three days he lay interred. The two reminds me of the two testaments; the two contrary principles struggling in man—virtue and vice. The ace reminds me of the only true God to adore, worship, and serve; one truth to practise, and one good master to serve and obey."

"So far it is very well," said the gentleman; "but I believe you have omitted one card—the knave."

"True, your honour; the knave reminds me of your honour's informer."

The gentleman became more pleased with Jack than before, freely forgave him, raised his wages, and discharged the informer.

CROQUET.

THOSE Croquet players who do not suffer from an over-sanguine temperament will have reason to be contented with the late revision. Several great points have been gained, and considerable changes effected. Let it be remembered that it is no easy task to recover from the effects of a single false move. It was possible to make a perfect code by revision of the laws as they stood in 1870. Not so with the revision of 1871, which, entered upon without authority and conducted without ability, created fresh difficulties, and threw the game back for a year. It introduced new principles which had to be abolished, and added many rules which it was necessary either to recast or cut out. Let us consider for a moment what the 1871 committee *did*, and also what they *left undone*. They introduced the "cue" stroke; they retained the "pegging out;" they entirely ignored the existence of the most popular setting, and the one most adapted to popular play; lastly, they set to work to recast the rules relating to the "wrong ball," and playing out of turn, and having expressed themselves on this head in sixty-nine lines instead of eighteen, they left Croquet players, at the end, in complete ignorance of their real meaning. In a word, they expressed themselves at great length, with much precision and to no purpose. In altogether ignoring the 8-hoop setting, they showed the ugly foot of party spirit, and in rules 28 to 33 they made manifest their general inability to cope with the task they had undertaken. All this we clearly pointed out at the time, and we stated, in language which we cannot think was too plain, that this must be changed. Changed the principal points have been, and our censure has been justified by the fact. Our efforts however might, perhaps, in many cases have been unavailing, had not the Grand National Club

entertained the same views, and persistently carried those views into execution. This Club, on publication of the Code 1871, at once appointed a committee of skilled players to comment upon it, and to draw up a set of bye-laws. These bye-laws stated boldly at the commencement that the 1871 code could only be accepted conditionally; that the Grand National Croquet Club would finally recognise no code in which the secretaries were not consulted, and clearly pointed at the intention of the National Club of appealing to them when the proper time should come. The bye-laws then proceeded to particulars; they abolished the "cue" stroke; they modified the law of pegging out, but with the express intention of finally abolishing it altogether; they printed and circulated diagrams of the 8-hoop setting; they pointed at laws 28 to 33 as contradictory in spirit and confused in phraseology. These additions and alterations were afterwards submitted to a full committee and formally approved. The principles they affirmed met with no slight opposition, but now are recognised fully and completely; and those particular points which were laid down as laws for the Grand National Club have become the laws of the whole Croquet community. We have witnessed this triumph with pleasure, because it is only a just reward of persistent aims, and of disinterested motives entirely divested of party spirit.

But though much has been done, much yet remains to do. The absurd recommendation, we understand, remains—that a full-sized Croquet ground should measure 40 by 30 yards. This is very much as if any one should instance as the best standard size of a man the Claimant of the Tichborne case. Those people who have a careless hundred or two to expend can have not only one, but half-a-dozen grounds of a quarter of an acre each. But the ordinary conditions of the limit to private pleasure grounds in particular, and of the inequality of ground in general; of the expense and trouble entailed by such a standard make this recommendation sufficiently impracticable. We trust that the G. N. C. C., which we look on as our chief pioneer in skill, will retain their old standard of 25 by 35. Next, as to the use of mallets:—A player is still allowed to use any number during a game. The consequence of this will be that every player who knows what he is about will, in all important matches, carry two mallets, one for general play and one to deal with balls in cramped positions, and this changing backwards and forwards will be, in common parlance, a great bore.

The rules which deal with "out of turn," "wrong ball," and wrong point," are still, we are sorry to say, in a very unsatisfactory state. They are no longer long and confused; but what is nearly, though not quite so bad, is, they are short and confused. The absurdity of expressing a meaning in a certain number of words, and then taking an equal number of words to explain what that meaning is, has been avoided. Long examples are not added by way of explanation to long rules—but confusedness is still the order of the day. For example, here is the first rule:—"If a player play out of turn, or with the wrong ball, and the mistake be discovered before a second stroke has been made, the remainder of the turn is lost, and any point or roquet made by it; the balls being replaced or not at the option of the adversary. The penalty is taken on the stroke immediately preceding the discovery of the mistake." Why this might be the stroke of the last player; indeed, in the case of playing out of turn it must be! I make the mistake of playing with the wrong ball at the commencement of my turn; the error is at once discovered; the stroke and the discovery are therefore simultaneous, and the penalty is taken on the stroke before the one I have just taken! Why, that is my adversary's! Wonderful! I commit an error, and my antagonist is punished; how, it is not stated—but that he does suffer a penalty is clearly set up.

But having put the player who has gone on "out of turn" in the right, if he only succeeds in making a second stroke in error—a bad principle—the rule proceeds to show, by implication, that the error of playing out of turn may at any time be discovered and punished *during that wrong turn.* What other interpretation can be put on the words: "If the adverse side *play* without discovering the mistake, the turn holds good." In the fore part of the rule, a single stroke seems given for discovery; in the after part, the whole turn.

This extraordinary rule is not yet ended. The penalty as to playing with "wrong ball" has an exception. "Except when after having made a point with the wrong ball, the player plays, and continues to play to the end of his turn with the right ball, in which case all points made during the turn are scored to the right ball." To put this into very plain English, the rule should stand thus: "Should an error be made which nobody discovers, no penalty shall attach to the said undiscovered error."

The concluding paragraph of this extraordinary rule runs as follows:—"Whether the mistake be discovered or not, the adversary may follow with either ball of his own side. This just avoids, but by a very narrow escape, the Irishism of last year:—"The adversary may elect which ball of his side shall follow, whether the error be discovered or not." This, as we pointed out last year, was a crowning piece of nonsense. As the words are altered, it is easy at least to see what is meant. What the committee was *trying to say* is no doubt this:—"If the error of playing with the wrong ball or out of turn be discovered, *but only when the next player has commenced*, this player shall be held to be in the right with whatever ball he is found to be playing with." This we hold to be entirely wrong in principle, and also by no means just; a rule at once inexpedient and unfair. A penalty is inflicted for the error of playing out of turn or with the wrong ball, if found out in time, therefore the discoverer of the error reaps a certain advantage, if he is quick enough to find it out within that given time. The present rule would add another advantage—would allow him to hark back, and give

him protection for a fault committed in a former turn, which, during the whole of that turn, he failed to discover.

We think perhaps that the great faultiness of these rules may arise from their being, as it were, a species of mental mosaic. In the framing of rules so difficult as these—and they have baffled all attempts as yet—the only way to obtain a law at once clear, expedient, just and unmistakable, is to commit the task to some one competent person. When three or four people agree to make a joint-stock business of it, failure is certain. We expect that these rules have been remoulded, reworded, reprincipled to such an extent, that framers, amenders, and objectors have become heartily sick of their labour, and have finally thrown off, in the hurry of disgust, the contradictory, confused and imperfect set of words, calling itself a rule, which is now presented for dispute.

REVISION OF THE LAWS.

We have received official notification of the alterations of the Laws of Croquet, the particulars of which we now give.

A joint Committee of the Grand National and All England Clubs was appointed in December last, to receive and arrange the votes of the Secretaries, and the following changes have been effected.

The old ten-hoop setting (No. 1) is cut out, and the setting of the Grand National Club substituted.

The seven-hoop and the six-hoop setting are both retained, but the former is not particularly recommended for match play as before. Accordingly, on page 11, the words "recommended for match play" (No. 2) are struck out. On the same page, in explanation of the six-hoop setting (No. 3), the words, "*an advantage of this setting is, that it can be easily condensed to suit small grounds,*" are also struck out.

Old Rule.—ABOLITION OF CUE STROKE.

Rule 1.—There shall be no restriction as to the number, weight, size, shape or material of the mallets, nor as to the attitude or position of the striker; nor as to the part of the mallet held *or used to strike with.* NOTE.—The words given in italics are ones which have been struck out; words in capitals are ones which have been added.

New Rule.

Rule 1.—There shall be no restriction as to the number, weight, size, shape or material of the mallets, nor as to the attitude or position of the striker; nor as to the part of the mallet held, PROVIDED THE BALL IS NOT STRUCK WITH THE HANDLE.

Old Rule.—ABOLITION OF PEGGING OUT.

Rule 16.—If a rover (except when in hand) be caused by any stroke not foul to hit the winning peg, the rover is out of the game, and must be removed from the ground.

New Rule.

Rule 16.—If a rover (except when in hand) be caused to hit the winning peg, BY ANY stroke OF THE SAME SIDE NOT FOUL, the rover is out of the game, and must be removed from the ground.

In rule 8 (points counted to non-striker's ball) the word "peg" is replaced by the words "TURNING peg," in order to bring the rule into harmony with rule 16.

Rule 24. The last sentence is omitted, viz., "*Should the striker or his partner touch, stop or divert the course of either ball after a croquet the stroke is foul.*

In 25, sub-section d. Cut out "*player*" and substitute "STRIKER."

Rules 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, with all the examples, are struck out, and the two following rules are inserted:—

28.—PLAYING OUT OF TURN OR WITH THE WRONG BALL.—If a player play out of turn or with the wrong ball, and the mistake be discovered before a second stroke has been made, the remainder of the turn is lost, and any point or roquet made by it; the balls being replaced or not at the option of the adversary. The penalty is taken on the stroke immediately preceding the discovery of the mistake.

If the adverse side play without discovering the mistake, the turn holds good, and any point or points made in error are scored to the ball by which they have been made, except when, after having made a point with the wrong ball, the player plays, and continues to play to the end of his turn, with the right ball, in which case all points made during the turn are scored to the right ball. Whether the mistake be discovered or not, the adversary may follow with either ball of his own side.

29.—PLAYING FOR A WRONG POINT.—If a player play for a wrong point, and the mistake be discovered before a third stroke has been taken, the remainder of the turn is lost, and any point or roquet made by it; but if the mistake be not discovered before the third stroke has been taken, the turn holds good, and the player who has made the mistake is deemed to be for the point next in order to that which he last made in error. Whether the mistake be discovered or not, the adversary may follow with either ball of his own side.

The alteration and condensation of the above laws will alter the numbering of the rules to the end, and the total number of the laws will now be 36 instead of 41. In the recommendations at the bottom of page 7, add PASSING THE BOUNDARY, OR MAKING A FOUL STROKE, DOES NOT PREVENT A PLAYER TAKING A BISQUE.

ALL ENGLAND CROQUET CLUB FIXTURES.

THE Spring Meeting and Championship of the Club, 7th May; for the Championship, 7th July; for the Autumn Meeting, 27th August.

REVISION OF THE LAWS OF CROQUET.

To the Editor of the WESTMINSTER PAPERS.

SIR,—I wrote you once a letter on Croquet, which you kindly inserted. Will you now give me space for another letter, and enlighten me on a subject on which, to all appearance, the public is being treated with the coolest contempt. We all know that there has been a Revision of the Croquet Laws, and a smart controversy about the copyright of the same. According to a statement made in your Papers some time back, the laws were, in the first instance, made provisional for one year, and therefore there surely could be no copyright beyond that time. The Great London Club however, it would seem, lays claim to the profit on them *in perpetuam*, and if their claim be just, they must surely make a very pretty profit out of them. With that question I would not interfere, though it appears to me it would be a very good subject for a lawyer. What I wish to ask you is this: If there is a profit on the laws, ought not a correct edition of them to be published? Here is a quotation from the *Field*:—

"CROQUET.—J. L. W.—(2) The code is so slightly altered that it is not intended to reprint it until the present edition is exhausted. The corrections and additions shall be given in *The Field* very shortly."

By this I should infer that the edition of last year is to be sold off before the code, as at present fixed, is put forth. That is to say, that for the convenience of the publishers—De la Rue—or the London Club, or the *Field*, or somebody or another, the public is to be obliged to buy up an old, worthless and obsolete edition of the laws, before they are entrusted with the correct and authorised code. Can you explain to me this somewhat strange proceeding? As to the assertion made by the *Field*, that the alterations are only slight, I am informed that this is in no way the fact. I understand that eight of the rules have been entirely re-worded, and I see that the *Field* allows as to six. Then there is a setting which has never been published in the laws before, of which we are only told that it is an eight-hoop setting. The important principle of pegging out is done away with, and a number of verbal alterations made.

LATAKIA.

[It seems to us that this is a good lesson for our friends, the secretaries. In their innocence, they have played at a little game they do not understand. They fancied they were representing the interest of the Croquet players, and they forgot that some of their number represented other interests. If the *Field* and Messrs. De La Rue are placed in one scale, and the Croquet players in the other, it does not require a prophet to foretell which side will kick the beam. This extreme cleverness however does not always succeed, and it remains to be proved whether the Croquet players are sufficiently stupid to buy the 2,000 copies of the old rules which are now on hand. To give the *Field* the full benefit of this most brilliant idea, we may mention that the number of Saturday the 17th ult. (which contains the editorial and quasi-official notice of the trifling alterations set out in this number) is on hand, and is for sale in Wellington Street at the ridiculously low price of Sixpence. Walk up, gentlemen, and buy the *Field*, the only paper in England that knows anything of Croquet! Buy! buy! buy! The 71 rules *and* the *Field*, only One Shilling. Two thousand useless official rules, going! going! given away, gentlemen, for £50! Incredible as it may seem, for the benefit of Messrs. De La Rue and the *Field*, the public is prevented from having the new code for another year, and in the meantime every player must play with a doubt and uncertainty about the law which, to say the least of it, is exceedingly irksome and disagreeable.—ED.]

DRAMATIC NOTES.

IT may be presumed that the theatres have for the most part had a prosperous time since Christmas, for there has been little or no change in the bills of the play for two months, and dramatic critics have had a holiday. As we write, the spell of inaction seems about to be broken; Covent Garden has already closed its doors; Drury Lane cuts off half of its modern pantomime, and substitutes the mediæval spectacle of Amy Robsart, in which Mrs. Hermann Vezin kindly replaces Miss Neilson as the heroine. The last weeks of the season are announced at the Princesses, and the present entertainments at the Adelphi are to be set aside for the reappearance of Mr. Fechter in *Ruy Blas*. At the Olympic, the *Woman in White* has disappeared quietly and obscurely, and the theatre itself is closed; and at its neighbour, the Globe, the last nights are announced of Mr. Byron's deservedly successful *Partners for Life*. The prospect of change and novelty—of something to bless or revile, brings more animation to the pens of the gentlemen of the Press, for few are able, like the ingenious contributors to the *Era*, to rehearse the glories and beauties of the pantomimes once a week. A refreshing sensation was indeed promised us a few weeks ago in the long threatened action for libel brought by

Mr. Vining against the publishers of the *Figaro;* but, alas! the sensation ended tamely, in an apology in Court. For this disappointment the editor and critic of *Figaro* are certainly responsible, for were they not very eloquent in the autumn on the rights of critics, and on the unshaken determination of the *Figaro* to champion the liberties of the Press? As it is, the honours of the day are with Mr. Vining, who will be able himself to enjoy as hearty a laugh as he annoyed the *Figaro* by asking the public to enjoy over certain contradictory notices.

We cannot say however that we are altogether without a sensation, for Ash Wednesday, the anomalous legislation appertaining to it, and the theatrical banquet which takes places on that day, contributes a little to our astonishment and amusement. It is superfluous to repeat here what has been stated so often in other journals, that the laws respecting the prohibition of stage plays on Ash Wednesday are contradictory and absurd in the extreme. It is sufficient to say that whilst Mr. Toole was not allowed to perform at the Gaiety, acrobats and monkeys were; and that, to add to the complication, summonses have been served by music hall proprietors on those managers who gave performances on the day. The ridiculous injustice of the law must be patent to everybody; but the reason that so little stir is made about it may probably be that it affects the prosperous manager or the popular actor in a smaller degree than the needy supernumeraries and scene shifters. To the former a holiday is not unwelcome, and if Ash Wednesday were not a close night, the annual banquet of the Dramatic and Equestrian Sick Fund Society would be robbed of half its company. The dinner this year was noticeable for the reappearance of Mrs. Stirling—who delivered a set speech with much eloquence, and for the chairmanship of Mr. Sheriff Bennett—who gave utterance to some truly remarkable sentiments. If the *Era* has reported him correctly, the worthy Sheriff must have been extremely entertaining. He has no doubts as to the prosperous and refined state of the stage, and pays no attention to the critics, for, to use his own words, "have we not our Websters, our Buckstones, our Jameses and our Thornes." As long as this quartette enlightens and elevates the popular taste, Mr. Bennett has hopes for the public and the dramatic profession, which "often" contains, he says, educated men and women. We believe that the Sheriff has lately been elected a member of the London School Board, but we doubt whether that Board, as a body, would recommend the placing of the gutter-child for education at the feet of Messrs. James and Thorne. Mr. Bennett's enthusiasm was no doubt inspired by the blaze of female beauty, by the "bright particular stars" which he spoke of as shining all round him in the room. Anxious to discover these bright particular stars, we turn to the beginning of the *Era* report, and find them to consist of Miss Sheridan, Miss Nisbett, Miss Soldene, Mrs. St. Henry, Miss Bromley and a few more. Who can wonder then that Mr. Bennett expressed himself in such glowing terms? His opinion as to the prosperous state of the stage is shared by Mr. Halliday, who, at a breakfast given to Mrs. John Wood, derided the idea that the drama was not in a healthy condition. The reasons which dictate his conclusions are, that actors get large salaries, authors are well paid, and the works of Walter Scott, Dickens and Victor Hugo, are used for the purpose of adaptation. No mention is made of the public, and Mr. Halliday would scarcely seem to believe in its existence, for even the few who harp on the decline of the drama are set down by him as disappointed aspirants. In fact, as Mr. Bennett pins his faith on Messrs. James and Thorne, so does Mr. Halliday place his trust in Webster, Chatterton and Halliday.

It is useless to deny, much as we may wish to deny it, the popularity that attends what is called pantomime. We do not know whether this has been an exceptional season—whether the reaction consequent on the recovery of the Prince of Wales has anything to do with the matter—but the fact is clear that both in London and the provinces the pantomimes have attracted crowds of people. It is recorded in the last month that a special train brought from Dover and the intermediate stations a number of persons to London, who assisted at a morning performance of one pantomime, and an evening performance of another, returning to their homes at midnight. Whether certain among this unhappy multitude survived the feat, the chronicle telleth not, but we may assume that they found some enjoyment in what they were doing, just as the crowds who wandered up and down Fleet Street and the Strand on the days preceding Thanksgiving Day found some gratification in staring at the lamp posts, the Venetian masts, and the deal-board stands. We need not repeat the observations made last month respecting the perverted tastes of the majority of the play-going public, but we may take it for granted that the mixture of incongruous elements, which, for want of a new title, we call pantomime, finds favour with those who prefer food for the eye to food for the mind. This species of entertainment is, we think, destined to hold the highest place in popular esteem for a few years, and our conviction is strengthened by the report that the shrewd Mr. Boucicault, than whom no one knows better the mood of the public, intends to open Covent Garden Theatre in the autumn with a play which shall combine spectacle, ballet, and *opera-bouffe.* This is the same thing as pantomime, with clown and harlequin left out; for pantomime, resolved into its component parts, now consists of spectacle, ballet, burlesque, and the leavings of the music halls, such as pocket-singers, tumblers, trapezists, dogs and monkeys, and so forth. None of these items, singly presented, would be successful. Spectacle *per se* is voted dull; ballet and dumb show is long since out of fashion. Burlesque is on the wane, if we may judge from the Strand, where one burlesque succeeds another very quickly, or from the Vaudeville, where they are reduced to the smallest compass. As for the old spirit of pantomime, it is not to

be found, save at a few outlying theatres, such as the Grecian, where Mr. George Conquest performs with remarkable ability. At Covent Garden, the thing to be seen was a scene in which some two hundred women executed military manœuvres; Drury Lane placed its trust in the Vokes family and Mr. Beverley, and Astley's in horses, lions and Miss Amy Sheridan. And these three theatres have been crowded for two months. Mr. Boucicault, therefore, to achieve a pecuniary success for so long or short a period as may suit his purposes, has only to combine the elements above mentioned with a little of the highly-decorated but exceedingly dreary extravaganza which finds favour at the Gaiety, and with a flavour of the Offenbachian *opera bouffe* which is paramount at the Philharmonic Theatre. Prepared with that skill which Mr. Boucicault will bring to his task, this mixture will be found to suit the palate of the public long enough to bring its author a commercial profit. That it is nothing more than a transient fancy, and that good plays and good acting will reassert their supremacy we do not doubt for a moment. The situation cannot be better illustrated than by comparing the fortunes of two establishments, which lie within a stone's throw of each other, the Philharmonic and Sadler's Wells. At the latter all is desolation and mourning; not all the *prestige* of a long history, nor the sanctity which yet clings to it on account of the memorable management of Mr. Phelps, can preserve it from being the means of emptying the pockets of the many speculators who take it for a short time, with speedy grief and misfortune to themselves. Within the last week, Mr. Belton, who is the latest victim, has been obliged to suddenly close its doors. Let the reader walk a hundred yards further up the road, and he will find the Philharmonic theatre and prosperity. The limited area of the building refuses to hold the crowds which flock to it, and the lounger of the Islington High Street is elbowed out of his place by the superior lounger of Pall Mall, who travels this unwonted distance to see and hear—what? Offenbach, certainly, the pleasantness of whose melodies we do not question; but Offenbach is a secondary attraction, and has been played to empty benches elsewhere. At the Philharmonic he is merely an accessory to flower girls in the lobbies; to women on the stage, richly, if scantily, clad; to a principal singer, with a large presence but an indifferent voice; and to the Clodoche *troupe* of French male dancers, of whose manner of dancing and posturing we would rather not speak. But whatever the attraction may be, there is no doubt as to the success of the Philharmonic, as there is no doubt as to the decayed fortunes of Sadler's Wells. And yet we have no doubt that when the Philharmonic, the Clodoche *troupe* and Offenbach himself, have disappeared, and are forgotten, Sadler's Wells, or the principles that it represents, will flourish and prosper; and the parable of these two theatres points the moral of the taste of the day in dramatic matters.

The Royalty Theatre has again been opened, by Mr. Nation; but as we have not yet visited it, the only new productions that call for our notice are a romantic play at the Alfred Theatre, and a burlesque on the *Last Days of Pompeii* at the Vaudeville. It will serve no purpose to review at any length Miss Evelyn's play, *A Life Race*, as by the time these lines are in print it may have been withdrawn. It is hardly suited to the stage generally, and still less to the Alfred Theatre particularly, but it is written with a good purpose, and the love scenes are pretty and poetical. The first act is anticipatory, in the second the action moves on a little, but in the third we are left chiefly to surmise as to the fate of the characters. The impression left on our minds in this act was mostly of thunder and lightning, and of a vessel in a storm, which tossed about in the most extraorninary fashion, the foremast inclining to one side, the mainmast to the other, whilst the passengers on deck, no doubt having found their sea-legs, never moved at all. As the authoress enacted the heroine, in a manner that proved that she can hardly act so well as she can write, and as Mr. Vezin and Mr. Swinbourne were included in the cast, we may assume that the speculation was not altogether managerial. However that may be, Mr. Harcourt is entitled to much praise, not only for giving us a brief glimpse of Mr. Vezin, whose action and elocution is full of grace and beauty, but also for his persistent endeavours to raise the character of the theatre. His management has been enlightened and vigorous, but he has difficulties to contend with in the remote locality in which the theatre is situated, and in the unmanageable nature of his Saturday night gallery, which is mainly composed of Edgware Road play-goers of a tender age, and whose noisy jocularity interferes with the enjoyment of more mature spectators. The difficulty of situation Mr. Harcourt may not be able to overcome, but as regards the gallery he seems to have established a kind of paternal despotism which is very amusing and highly effective.

As amongst the blind the one-eyed is said to be king, so the new burlesque at the Vaudeville, entitled the *Very Last Days of Pompeii*, is superior to those that have previously been produced at the same theatre. Its principal virtue lies in its brevity, and as burlesques become shorter and shorter, on account of the utter impossibility of introducing any novelty into them, it is probable that they will soon end in becoming farces proper. The present piece, being a parody on the performance at the Queen's, hardly required much alteration to become a burlesque; but Messrs. James and Thorne are fairly entitled to all the laughter they earn from their acrobatic feats, which, if not new, are yet funny. It is a hopeful sign that burlesque at this theatre merely serves to play out the audience, who assemble to enjoy the evergreen *London Assurance*.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CHESS.

W. C. HARRIS (St. Leonards-on-Sea).—The subscription of the *Quarterly Chronicle* is six shillings per annum, free by post. The Leipsic *Shachzeitung* (Veit and Co., Leipsic) and the Neue Berliner *Shachzeitung* (Julius Springer, Berlin), each two thalers and 20 silber groschen per annum. *La Stratégie* (Paris), London agents, Messrs. Barthes and Lowell, 14 Great Marlborough Street, London, 21 francs per annum. The Dubuque *Chess Journal* (O. A. Brownson jun., Dubuque, Iowa, U.S.), three dollars per annum; and *Sissa*, which can be obtained through Messrs. Adams and Francis, 59 Fleet Street, London, E.C. The last is printed in the Dutch language, and we do not know the price; but we will gladly lend you a specimen number if you have any desire to see it.

W. C. C.—Glad to hear from you once more, and to receive the problems. In No. 499 the capture of the Rook is too weak, and in the variation, White, on the third move, may play Q to B 6 ch, mating next move. In No. 498 there are two mates in the leading variation, viz., your own and B to K R 4—all bad in art. Try again.

J. PIERCE (Bedford).—Thanks for the problems, which reached us too late for notice last month.

C. COLLINS (Clay Cross).—Many thanks for the game, which shall have due honours so soon as we have cleared off our arrears a little.

J. MENZIES (Brighton).—No. 3 seems all right now, and we think very highly of it. We had noticed the resemblance between No. 2 and one of J. B.'s problems, but we were far from believing that therefore you had wilfully copied the earlier composer. We have known several coincidences of the kind.

A LITTLE BOY.—The problem seems all right, and although it lacks finish, is creditable enough as a first effort.

J. A. W. H. (Edinburgh).—Problems received, and explanation also. Many thanks.

E. F. (Hull).—Why refer us to Mr. Ruskin for an explanation? Put it on the record in your own words, or his, if it is more convenient. We have no time for the elucidation of mysteries.

T. C. B. (Conway House).—The author of No. 78 has requested us to inform you that a Black Pawn should be placed on K Kt 4.

V. G. (Oldenburg).—Letter received. Much obliged for your attention.

J. KLING.—Always acceptable.

C. E. R. (Great Malvern).—We have addressed a letter to you through the post.

H. T. Y. (Cumberland Place).—Many thanks for the problem.

WHIST.

W. F.—C leads a card, which wins. He takes up the trick, and, instead of turning it on the table, he places the trick in his hand. He thinks there is something wrong, and becomes confused. He looks through his hand, and re-sorts his cards, and in a fit of absence, and believing that he is about to begin the game, leads again the same card as before, which wins again, and he follows with another card that has been previously played. On which, one of the adversaries declare that there must be something wrong, as the cards are being played twice over. The mistake of C in taking up the trick is then discovered, and the question is, what is to be done?—*Ans.* It appears to us that C's offence is not provided for by the laws. What he did is outside all law, and involves the loss of the game. We are not aware that the case has hitherto been decided, nor can we recal any analagous offence.

J. R. C.—A and B against C and D; score 2 all. A and B score 3 tricks. C and D claim 2 by honours. Does the claim reduce the double to a single? Are A and B to mark a double or a single?—*Ans.* The tricks count first, and therefore make game; and, as A and B are out before the honours can score, the honours do not score, and consequently A and B win a double, exactly in the same way as if C and D had not the honours.

C. C. H.—In playing three-handed Whist, how many tricks must you get before you begin to count?—*Ans.* Four.

B.—A and B are partners against X and Z. X and Z are two by honours, and have got two by cards. B throws down the cards, and says, "partner, they must be game;" thereupon X and Z throw down their cards, and they get mixed. A retains his cards, and declares that he can save the game, and declines to throw up his cards. X and Z declare that it is too late. A bystander is appealed to, who requires B, the original offender, to take up his cards, which he does as best he can. He then asks X and Z if they are satisfied that those are B's cards, to which they reply "No;" whereupon the bystander decides that A and B have lost the game; that A is bound by B's acts, and as B cannot select his cards there is no other way out of it. A then declines to be bound by the decision, on the ground that he has not assented to the umpire, and that the umpire cannot deprive him, A, in any event, of his legal rights. You are requested to advise on the points raised.—*Ans.* 1. A tacitly acknowledged the appointment of the referee. If he objected to the appointment he should have said so at once, and not have stood by to take the chance of the decision being in his favour, with the right to repudiate the decision if it was against him. There must be reciprocity in these matters. We do not expect to get the best decision on a point of law off-hand by a casual looker-on. The point is to obtain a decision, and we must get the best we can, and abide by the decision, whether for us or against us. Anything at Whist is better than wrangling. 2. We think the umpire did not take all the means in his power to get the cards right. X and Z were bound to select their cards as much as B. It is true that B was originally the wrongdoer, and that to some extent X and Z are misled by him, but in the eyes of the law, X and Z are both in the wrong. They ought not to have thrown down their cards until A did so. A is the only one of the party who keeps within the law, and he ought not to suffer for the joint wrongs of B, X and Z. Our impression is, that all means should have been exhausted to get the cards right. That bystanders might have been appealed to for the purpose, and we are inclined to think, failing all other ways, that A ought to be at liberty to place the cards about which there was a doubt. We cannot recal a decision on this point.

JACK.—We do not see how the rule as to dealing out of turn is to be mended. The limit as to time for rectifying the mistake could not be extended to after the trump card is turned, *i.e.* after the cards are seen, otherwise you would open the door to a worse offence. If a player deals out of turn by mistake, this is an accident that may happen to us all. If the deal is taken purposely, there is no distinction between taking a deal and a pocket handkerchief. The one is stealing as much as the other.

R. (Madras Presidency).—Your letter is not very clear, and we answer it as best we can. If your partner refrains from forcing you, he tells you in so many words that he is not sufficiently strong to do so. If he is strong, he would either force you or lead a trump. When you get in, and you then know that you can force your partner, we should not hesitate to do so. With Ace and 3 trumps, King turned up to your right, and the King card of your suit against you, that suit being the one in which your partner is void, the remainder of the suit being to your right, we should think this the proper suit to lead; and if the 2nd hand trumps, and your partner overtrumps, he would be justified in leading a trump through the King. You would have told your partner you had some strength in trumps by forcing, which would justify him in leading the trump, or if he did not think that advisable, he would go on with the cross ruff. We cannot imagine it could be good play to lead the Ace and another trump in this position. Your suit is not clear; your partner has not the best of your adversaries' suit. You have a cross ruff on, and you have the King of trumps to your right. Almost any of these reasons should be sufficient to deter you from the trump lead. In addition to this, your adversaries must lead a trump the first time they get in.

JOS.—The exposed card must be left on the table until it is played.

The Westminster Papers.

1st APRIL 1872.

THE LAWS OF GAMES.

It is a remarkable fact that the laws of our finest games—games which naturally attract the highest amount of ability to play—are singularly imperfect, not to say bad, in their construction. Nay, it would almost appear that the talent which is found and chosen (or chooses itself) to frame the laws of any particular game, is in the inverse ratio to the ability which is required to play it. Thus, let us take our four best games (we bar Chess), and we shall see that there is a graduated scale in the imperfection of their rules, the worst rules being those of the most clever game. Our instances are—Cricket, Billiards, Croquet, Whist. That the first three require manual skill, in addition to a certain amount of head-work, does not affect our argument. Whist calls upon the brain more than any of the other three games, and its rules are by a long way the most faulty. Again, Croquet is much harder to learn—that is to say, its principles are harder to be mastered than those of either Cricket or Billiards—but the laws, as they appeared in 1871 (of the laws of 1872 we do not speak, as they have not yet been published) contained a series of blunders which were simply childish, and which placed the laws below either Billiards or Cricket.

It must be admitted that both the framing of the laws of games, and the conditions by which they exist when drawn up, are matters of some importance. The introduction and maintenance of a single bad law will go far to lower the character of any game as a trial of manual skill or conflict of mental ability. We shall therefore be rendering a service to that large community in England who habitually play games for amusement or profit, by calling attention to the causes to which the failures hitherto existing in this sort of legislation may be clearly attributed.

The first grave error can plainly be traced to that most illogical conclusion which supposes that a first-rate player of a game must of necessity be a first-rate framer of its laws. Clay and Cavendish, Cook and Roberts, Law and Whitmore, Grace and Walker, are excellent performers at Whist, Billiards, Croquet and Cricket respectively; they may be greatly inefficient in all legislative faculty.

The human intellect, which generally jumbles up its notions in a hap-hazard sort of way, frequently makes a confusion between the powers of legislating and executing. That a man can legislate well is a presumptive argument that he can execute fairly; that he can execute splendidly is no proof whatever that he can legislate at all. And this is the more strikingly apparent where a man's excellencies are shown in the mastery of one particular game, or of one part of it. To illustrate our meaning—a good all-round man at Cricket, would be much more likely to make good rules for his favourite pastime than the more brilliant bowler, or, in *Bell's* phrase, the more skilful "handler of the willow." Again, a man who played only fairly well at Whist, Chess, Billiards, Croquet, Cricket—but was fond of all—would be more likely to legislate well for these games than the most noted celebrities of the games themselves. It is then, we suspect, the handing over games to the tender mercies of one or two good players that is the first cause of stupid rules.

The next cause of failure is the conceit, jealousy or rapacity of societies, who strive for a monopoly of power, and sometimes gain it. Cricket is not quite an illustration of what we mean, for this is necessarily attracted to a centre, and the M.C.C. with its thousand and eighty members, may fairly be intrusted with the Laws of Cricket. But Whist, which has the worst laws of all, is not on the same footing, and we think that more than two Clubs ought to have been admitted and have had a voice in that revision undertaken by the Arlington and Portland alone. Indeed the thing speaks for itself. The laws are so bad, that they stand accusatory of the system under which they were introduced. In Croquet, matters are managed one degree better, but this has only been by force of arms. *The Field*, which represents a local Club, though possessing a name of general signification, attempted to obtain for this single Club, though only comprising two hundred

members, the sole legislation of the game. Luckily for Croquet, this attempt was defeated by the Secretaries, and with these the revision of the laws now entirely rests. An attempt to overthrow this arrangement, which partially succeeded, and gave us the laws of 1871, broke down in 1872, and though the laws of this game are still very defective, the machinery for their remedy is clearly established.

It would thus appear that there are three separate methods pursued to procure the laws of games. They are framed in one instance by a single leading Club, as in Cricket; or by two leading Clubs, as in Whist; or by the Secretaries of all the Clubs, as in Croquet. But as we have pointed out, Cricket stands on a totally different footing to either Croquet or Whist. Neither of the latter games are attracted so much to a centre. Whist is widely diffused through Towns, and Croquet through the Country. But both being thus widely spread, we think that the machinery for revision is more perfect in the case of Croquet, than in Whist. Still in both cases, there is yet much to remedy—nay there is much to remedy in the whole system of the framing of the laws of games generally. Something yet stands in the way. We have pointed to the most obvious causes of failure, which are, as it were, external. These are the original appointments to Committees on illogical grounds; and the rivalry, or rapacity of societies. Is this all? And can no suggestion be made by which a good and perfect set of rules may be a thing possible? For as yet we have nothing of the sort.

THE CHESS WORLD.

"The whisperings of our petty burgh."

We understand that a congress of Chess players will be convened in London, in August next, under the auspices of the British Chess Association, and that the preliminary arrangements are now nearly completed. The programme, we have reason to believe, will comprehend a Tourney for players of the first class, a Handicap Tourney for the less experienced practitioners of Chess, and a Tourney for Problems in three, four and five moves. A committee of representative players—metropolitan and provincial—is being formed, and most encouraging promises of support have been received from all quarters. We have a peculiar pleasure in announcing this intelligence, for, notwithstanding that the sole object of the Association in the past has been the one we have all so much at heart—the cultivation of the game of Chess—it has never, since 1862, enjoyed the popularity its services have deserved. Popularity—we use the word in the limited sense that our subject demands—is only to be obtained by publicity, but since the congress of 1862 the British Chess Association seems to have acted on the advice of the philosopher who summed up the experience and study of years in the one maxim, "Conceal your life." The management has not courted publicity. To the ordinary provincial player, each member of it has been as a Veiled Prophet, and as in these days the world has ceased from philosophising, and conundrums are relegated to the penny miscellanies, and the Chess column of the *Illustrated London News*, the result has been comparative failures. The meeting of 1872 promises to rival in fair proportions the successful one inaugurated just ten years ago, but to realise this anticipation every Chess player must put his shoulder to the wheel, and if there are physical objections to such muscular exertion, let them "put their hands in their pockets," taking them out again however with something in them.

We have heard that Herr Steinitz visited Oxford lately, and played several games blindfold, with the members of the University Chess Club; but our correspondent has not informed us whether the games were played simultaneously or at intervals; in the latter case it must have been playing in more than one sense on the part of Herr Steinitz.

"If I *do* feign,
Oh! let me in my present wildness die."

The City of London Club has challenged the Vienna Club to a match by correspondence. We "pause for a reply."

The members of the Birkbeck Institute Chess Club are engaged in a tournament for a prize.—*The Key to the Chess Openings*, presented by the author, Mr. Thomas Long, of Dublin.

The *Deutsche Schachzeitung* informs us that the next meeting of the North German Association will be held in July next, at Altona, and that Messrs. Andersen and Mincwitz have expressed their intention of competing in the tourneys. Although our old friend, the *Leipziger*, comes with a new name, he is not changed beyond recognition. He is as excellent as ever.

The *Berliner Schachzeitung* has ceased to exist. If the cause of its decease was, as the faculty say, "defective circulation," it is a reproach to the Chess world.

The Chess corner of the *Vienna Salonblatt* is distinguished for the excellence of the problems which appear in it. The Editor, Dr. S. Gold, is himself a composer whose merit is recognised by all lovers of problems.

In America, Chess is an evergreen, and flourishes in all seasons. Following close upon the National Congress at Cleveland, there has been a State (Ohio) Tourney, held at Cincinnati, and the prize, "a gold watch appropriately engraved," has been carried off by Mr. Max Judd. A match between Mr. Pindar, late of Manchester, and Mr. Perrin, the Chess Editor of the *Spirit of the Times*, is in progress. Mr. Perrin is unfortunately unable to do justice to himself, from other demands upon his time and attention. The score stands,—Pindar 3 ; Perrin 0.

A number of gentlemen in Brooklyn have combined to re-organise the Brooklyn Chess Club, and with every probability of success. We observe, by the bye, that among the officials of the new Club there is an Actuary, and we have been extremely puzzled in the effort to define the duties of such an officer in a Chess Club. We have come to the conclusion that his actuarial functions will be to "calculate" the possible duration of a game, based on the probable longevity of the players.

The New York Clipper celebrates the close of its seventh centuary of problems in a little poem, which we feel assured our readers will thank us for copying in our pages. The authoress, who assumes the *nom de plume* of *Phania*, is not unknown in the paths of American literature.

DEDICATION.

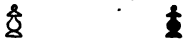
To the memory of the most brilliant lady player of Mediæval Chess, the sister of the renowned Harun al Raschid ; and their illustrious brother, the "Octonary Caliph," this column, the close of our 7th century, is reverentially dedicated, by MIRON.

CHESS SIMILES.

Written to accompany the *Clipper's* No. 800, and inscribed to Chas. A. Gilberg, Esq.

BY PHANIA.

We oft have heard it said and sung,
In many a clime and many a tongue,
That, as a chess-board, so is life,
With keen contention ever rife.
The squares are as the years of man ;
Alas! how few will pass safe o'er
The light and shade within their span,
And fill the tale of sixty-four



As childhood's doubtful vigour dawns,
With careful step the little PAWNS
Essay to tread their dangerous way ;
But, child-like, wearying in their play,
Pining and drooping day by day,
Many are laid to rest away:
Yet, toiling o'er the upward steep,
To royal rank one still may creep.

BISHOPS, like ardent youth, set out
With lengthened stride and noisy shout ;
With eager nerve and heart of fire,
Of gallant deeds they never tire, [bright,
Threat'ning with brandished weapons
And dashing *coup* to win the fight.

Like man mature, the charging KNIGHT,
With clanging arms and trusty might,
Marches to battle for the cause
Of human rights and equal laws;
With sturdy, self-reliant blows,
Confusion hurls amid his foes.

The ROOKS, like those in high command,
With stately mien flank either hand ;
Ready in pinch of mortal strife
To peril every vassal life ;
Ready to shield from every foe
The sovereign's throne in weal or woe.
The heroes these, whose steady power
Sustains their prince in danger's hour ;
Nor in the field alone display
Their prowess ; for, as courtiers, they
Counsels can give as laws obey.

THE QUEEN—to what shall we compare
Her varied gifts, so great, so rare?
Like some proud general is she,
Leading his troops to victory!
The QUEEN'S a woman. Show me where
There is a woman, young and fair,
Or old, and fading from our sight,
That has not wielded untold might.
In silent sway her power may be,
As when from some rude enemy
Protecting those on either hand,
We see the QUEEN defensive stand ;
Sometimes, with flippant speech so light,
Like women talking for the right
To talk ; sometimes she stalks among
Bishops and Knights, with lordling tongue,
Defying all by word or way
To meet her in the closing fray.

Man in his dotage is the KING ;
The very triumphs he can sing
Are won by loyal arms and hearts,
By trenchant blades and wily arts :
E'en, when repulsed, he still relies
On stronger hands and sharper eyes,
Until checkmated—when he dies.

The following excellent report of the International Chess Match between the Chess Clubs of Sydney and Brisbane is taken from the *Sydney Mail*:—

This match was commenced on Monday (New Year's Day), the 1st inst. The players assembled at the Telegraph-office shortly before 10 a.m. ; but, owing to a temporary interruption to the wire by a thunderstorm, not much progress was made in the match until late in the afternoon. At the time of adjournment (6.30 p.m.), the Brisbane players had two games, which bid fair to go hard with our team. The Sydney champion at board 6 had won a piece and Pawn of his adversary with a fine game. Mr. Brown (board 3) had won a Pawn, and had some advantage of position. Mr. Lea had also a good game, but this will probably not be played out, as we understand that his opponent (Mr. Francis) had to leave Brisbane on Tuesday night for up-country, and is not likely to return for a month.

The following is the result of the pairing of the players :—

Queensland.		New South Wales.	Queensland.		New South Wales.	Queensland.		New South Wales.
Board No. 1. Francis	agst	Lea	Board No. 4. Darvall	agst	Gibbes	Board No. 6. Dixon	agst	M'Rae
Board No. 2. Schofield	agst	Crane	Board No. 5. Browne	agst	Heydon	Board No. 7. Adams	agst	Smith
Board No. 3. Deighton	agst	Brown						

Mr. Lippman acted as representative for the Queensland players, Mr. Walker having been unable to accept the honour; and Mr. C. S. Mein discharged the same kind office for the Sydney players.

The telegraphic arrangements were satisfactory, and the operating was discharged by Mr. Hunt in a careful and praiseworthy manner.

Play was resumed on Wednesday evening last, shortly before 8 p.m., and as Mr. Schofield gave a chance to Mr. Crane, that gentleman quickly availed himself of the Brisbane player's evident oversight, forcing his antagonist to draw, notwithstanding the fact that the Sydney player had been struggling under great disadvantages through having lost a piece early in the game. This draw was looked upon as a great victory, as the game was considered decidedly in favour of Queensland at the time of adjournment. The next game finished was that between Messrs. Gibbes and Darvall, which was also in favour of the Brisbane player, but Mr. Gibbes, after a stubborn contest, saved a lost game by forcing a draw. The Brisbane players at boards 3 and 6 shortly afterwards resigned; but boards 5 and 7 were not completed until an early hour on Thursday morning, when Mr. Smith lost his game to Mr. Adams, and Mr. Heydon checkmated Mr. Bourne, this being the only checkmate given throughout the whole of these intercolonial matches.

The match may, therefore, be taken as follows:—

New South Wales	Won 3	Drawn	2
Queensland	„ 1	Unfinished	1

It will be seen that our team have a majority of two games; and even supposing Mr. Francis should win the unfinished one, Queensland still loses the match by one. But it would be more satisfactory to play the adjourned game out, and some arrangement should be made for doing so without delay.

It is with sincere regret we learn that Captain Evans, the inventor of the Evans Gambit, is in great pecuniary distress. He is now 82 years of age, nearly blind, and very infirm. He has a wife and sister dependent upon him for support. For some years past he has been residing in Belgium, but the doctors strongly recommend his removal to England, as the damp, cold climate of Ostend is killing him, and he cannot be moved unless certain little debts, incurred during his illness, are first discharged. What Arkwright was to Manchester, and Stephenson to railways, Captain Evans has been to Chess. His Opening was the greatest discovery since the days of Philidor and Lolli, and has caused more pleasure to Chess players than anything else connected with the game. It is proposed to raise £100 to assist him in his difficulties, and all gentlemen willing to help in this good cause, either with money or their names, are earnestly requested to communicate with Mr. George Walker, 40 Albion Road, Stoke Newington (who will vouch for the truth of this statement), or to Mr. Charles Mossop, solicitor, 1 Ironmonger Lane, E.C. These gentlemen will endeavour to form a committee of the leading Chess players to raise the required sum, and they will duly acknowledge the receipt of any contribution that may be forwarded to them.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEMS.

DECEMBER NUMBER.

No. LXII.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 R to Q 8	1 Kt takes P best
2 R to K Kt 8	4 Aught
3 R or Kt mates	

No. LXIII.

1 B to Q B 4	1 K or P moves
2 B to K 6	2 Aught
3 R mates	

No. LXIV.

1 Q to K Kt 2	1 P moves
2 Kt to K 6	2 K or P takes Kt
3 Q mates	

No. LXV.

1 R to K Kt 3	1 P takes R
2 B to K 5	2 P takes B
3 Kt takes P mate	

No. LXVI.

1 Kt to Q 7 ch	1 Q takes B
2 Q to Kt 5	2 K takes R
3 Q takes P ch	3 K to Kt 5
4 Q to Q Kt 6 mate	

NOTE.—The variations are obvious.

No. LXVII.

1 K to K B 5	1 P takes R
2 Q to Q 2 ch	2 K takes B
3 Q to Q 4 ch	3 K takes Kt
4 P to Kt 4 mate	

No. LXVIII.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 B to Q 4	1 P to K 4
2 R to K B 7	2 P takes B best
3 R to K B 6	3 P takes P
4 R mates	

No. LXIX.

1 Kt to Kt 2	1 P moves best
2 Kt to K sq	2 P moves
3 B to Kt 2	3 P takes B
4 Kt to Kt 3	4 P Queens or [Aught
5 Kt to B 3 mate	

No. LXX.

1 P to Q B 3 ch	1 K to B 4
2 Kt to R 4 ch	2 K to Kt 4
3 P to Q B 4 ch	3 K to R 3

The White King now takes the shortest route to K B square, moves the B along the diagonal, so as to capture any Pawn which may be advanced, and then moves K to Kt 2, K to R 3, K to Kt 4, &c., mating with the B when he reaches Q B 8.

JANUARY NUMBER.

No. LXXI.

1 R to Q R sq	1 K moves
2 Q to Q Kt sq mate	

No. LXXII.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 Q to K 2	1 K moves
2 Kt to Q 3	2 Aught
3 Mates accordingly	

No. LXXIII.

1 B to Q 8	1 B takes P
2 R takes P	2 Aught
3 Kt, B or R mates	

No. LXXIV.

1 Kt to Kt 4	1 P takes Kt
2 R to K 5	2 Aught
3 B or R mates	

No. LXXV.

1 Q to Q 3	1 P to Q 4
2 B takes P	2 K takes B best
3 Q to B 5 ch	3 B interposes
4 Q to B 3 mate	

No. LXXVI.

1 R takes Kt	1 P to Q Kt 4
2 Kt to Q R 4 ch	2 P takes Kt
3 R takes Q P ch	3 K or P takes R K to Kt 3 or K to Kt 5
4 Q or Kt mates accordingly	

No. LXXVII.

1 Kt to Kt 3 ch	1 K moves
2 Kt to Q B 4 ch	2 K moves
3 B takes P	3 P takes B
4 R mates	

No. LXXVIII.

WHITE.	BLACK.
1 K to Q B 4	1 P to K B 6 best
2 B to Q 6 ch	2 K takes B
3 P to Q 4	3 K to K 2
4 Kt to Q B 8 mate	

FEBRUARY NUMBER.

No. LXXX.

1 Q to K R sq	1 Aught
2 mates	

No. LXXXI.

1 Q takes P	1 K to B 4
2 P to K 4 ch	2 Anything
3 Mates accordingly	

No. LXXXII.

1 B to K 4	1 P takes P
2 Q to K 2 ch	2 K to R 5
3 Q to R 6 mate	

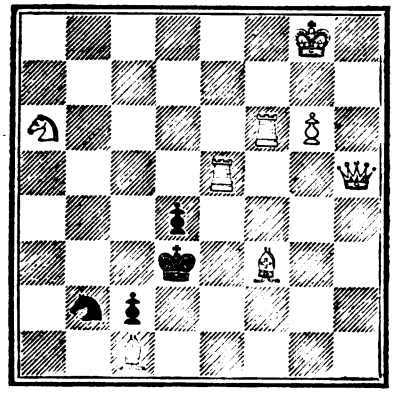
No. LXXXIII.

1 B to Q Kt 5	1 P to Kt 3
2 R to K 4	2 K takes R
3 B to Q B 4	3 P moves
4 P mates	

TOURNEY PROBLEMS.

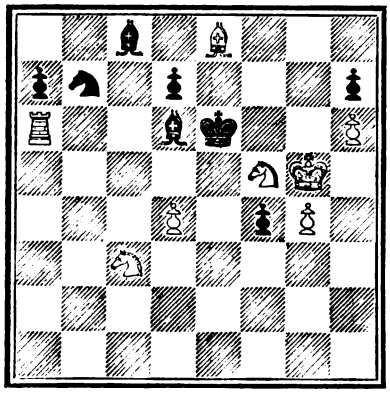
"The Westminster Chimes."

No. XCVII.—Black.



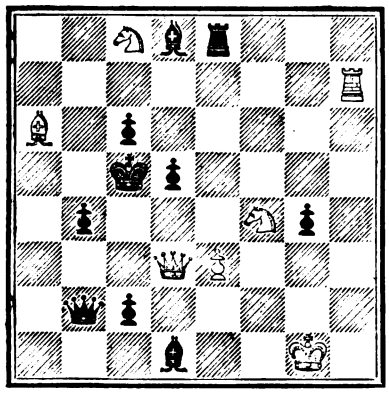
WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. XCVIII.—Black.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

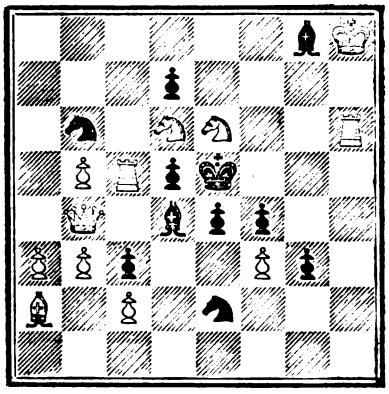
No. XCIX.—Black.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

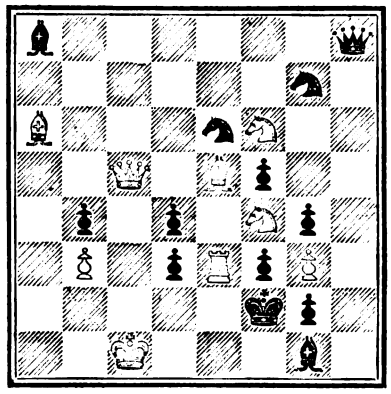
"Ich Strebe bis ich Sterbe."

No. C.—Black.



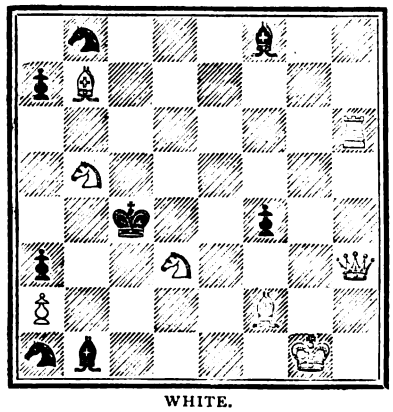
WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

No. CI.—Black.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

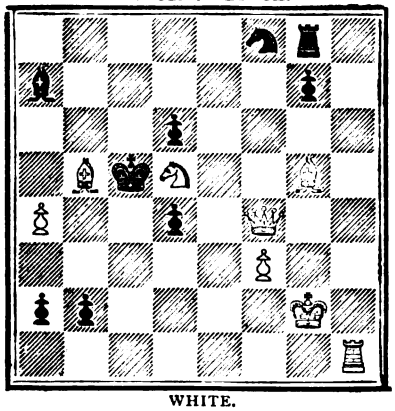
No. CII.—Black.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

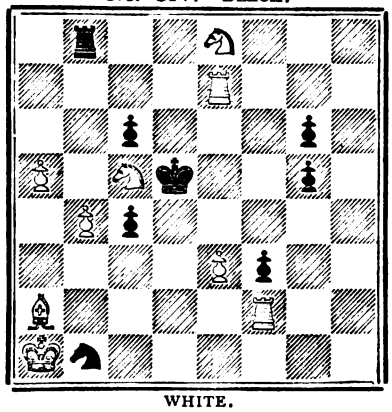
"As you Like it."

No. CIII.—Black.



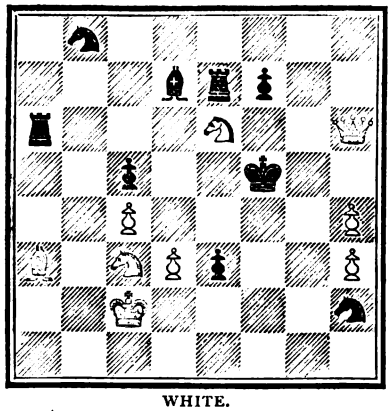
WHITE.
White to play and mate in three moves.

No. CIV.—Black.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

No. CV.—Black.

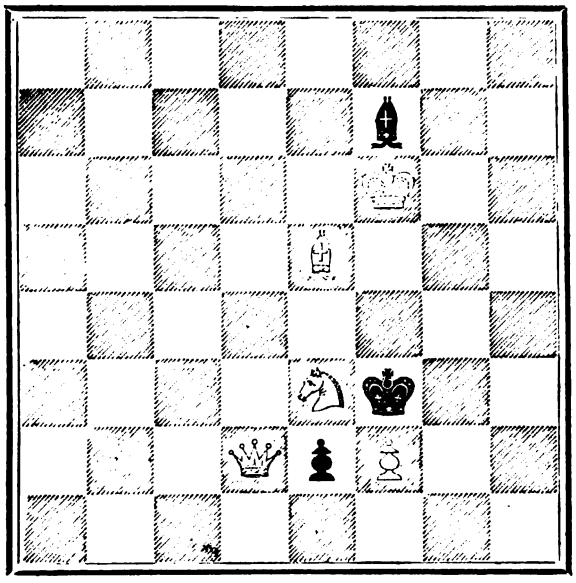


WHITE.
White to play and mate in four moves.

PROBLEMS.

PROBLEM No. CVI.—By F. HEALEY.

BLACK.

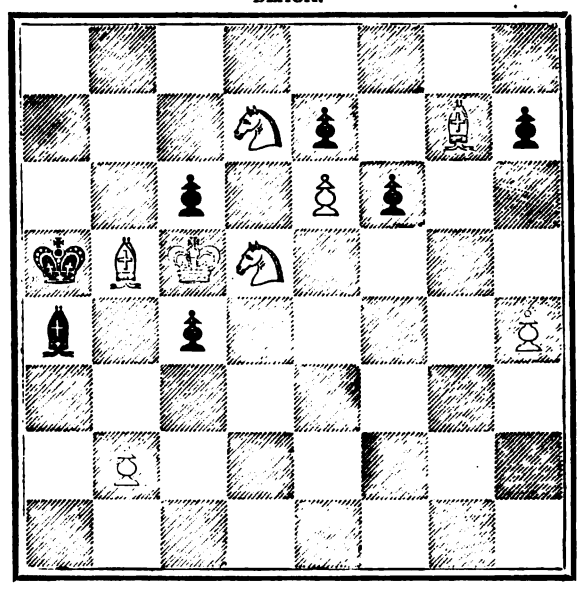


WHITE.

White to play and force mate in four moves.

PROBLEM No. CVII.—By J. A. W. HUNTER.

BLACK.

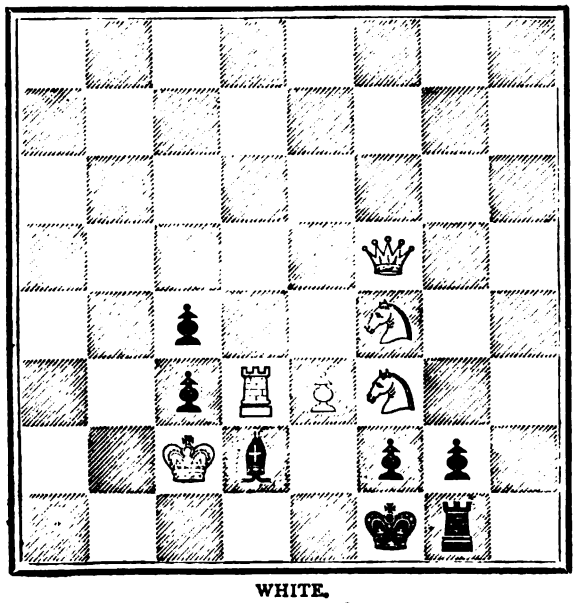


WHITE.

White to play and mate in four moves.

PROBLEM No. CVIII.—By A. TOWNSEND, Newport.

BLACK.

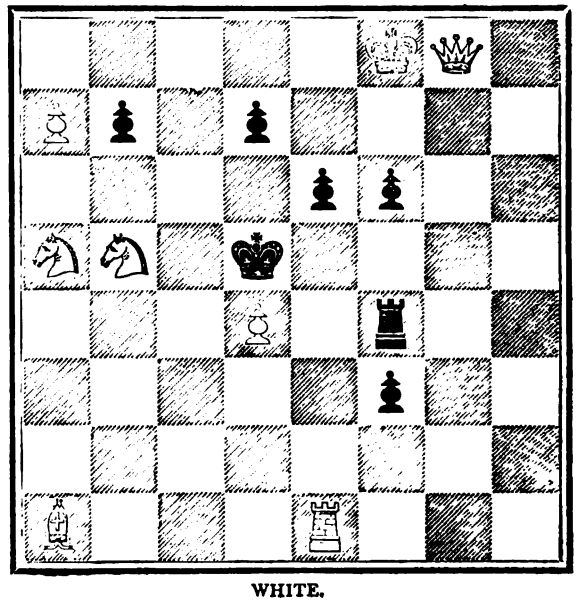


WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

PROBLEM No. CIX.—By W. B. MASON, Inverness.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

GAME LXVI.

The following encounter at the odds of Q's R took place very recently between two Members of the City and County of Dublin Chess Club.

Remove White's Q R.

White.	Black.	White.	Black.
DYNARI.	LINTSCRAWE.	DYNARI.	LINTSCRAWE.
1. P to K 4	1. P to Q B 4 (a)	15. Kt to B 6	15. Kt to R 4
2. P to Q B 4	2. P to K 3	16. P to Q Kt 4 (d)	16. B takes B
3. Q Kt to B 3	3. Q Kt to B 3	17. K takes B	17. P to R 4 (e)
4. P to K Kt 3	4. P to Q Kt 3	18. Q to B 3	18. Kt to B 3
5. B to Kt 2	5. B to Kt 2	19. P takes P	19. P to Q Kt 4
6. P to B 4	6. B to Q 3	20. P to Q 4	20. B to R 2
7. P to Q 3	7. Kt to Q 5	21. P to Q 5	21. Kt to K 2
8. B to K 3	8. P to Q R 3	22. R to Q sq	22. Kt to B 4
9. K Kt to K 2	9. Kt takes Kt	23. B to B 2	23. K to Kt 2 (f)
10. Q takes Kt (b)	10. Kt to K 2	24. Q P takes P	24. Q to R 4
11. Castles	11. Kt to B 3	25. R takes P	25. Kt to R 3
12. P to K 5 (c)	12. B to Kt sq	26. Kt takes P ch (g)	26. P takes Kt
13. Q to Kt 4	13. P to Kt 3	27. Q takes P	27. B takes P
14. Kt to K 4	14. K to B sq	28. P to B 5	28. K R to K B sq

White announced mate in 4 moves (h).

(a) In most games, at the odds of Q R, from the nature of the opening adopted, the first player has a chance of being able to decide the issue before the second player can well avail himself of his extra R; here however the safe line of play pursued by the second player almost precludes such a possibility. It is said these tactics so exasperated Morphy, when yielding the odds of Kt to Thompson, that he at length resorted to the K B P opening.

(b) Inasmuch as White brought his Kt to K 2, and not to K B 3, one should now expect Kt takes Kt.

(c) A good move, though apparently one which exposes White to some telling exchanges, if Black play Kt to Q 5 instead of retreating his B. We invite attention to one interesting variation which might in that case have ensued :—

	12. Kt to Q 5	15. Kt to K 4	15. Kt to B 4	18. P takes Kt ch	18. K takes P
13. Q to Kt 4	13. B takes B	16. Kt takes B ch	16. Kt takes Kt	19. Q to K 5 ch	19. K to K 2
14. Q takes Kt P	14. B takes R	17. Q takes R ch	17. K to K 2	20. K takes B, being only "the exchange" behind.	

(d) An admirable conception. (e) If P takes P White would gain an immediate advantage by B takes P.

(f) This move, which involves the loss of two Pawns, was not made unadvisedly, and a close examination will show that no move much better was available.

(g) Speedily producing an elegant finish. (h) Hitherto we have pointed out no weakness (and weakness somewhere must have occurred) in Black's play; perhaps the experience of the game gave him reason to regret his having retreated his B so far on his twelfth move.

GAME LXVII.

In the following little skirmish, Mr. Steinitz gives the odds of his Queen's Rook and move.

IRREGULAR OPENING.

White (Amateur).	Black (Mr. S.)	White (Amateur).	Black (Mr. S.)
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	7. P takes P	7. Q to R 5 ch
2. P to Q 3	2. B to B 4	8. K to K 2	8. Q to B 7 ch
3. B to K 3	3. B takes B	9. K to Q 3	9. Kt to B 4 ch
4. P takes B	4. P to Q B 3.	10. K to B 4	10. Q Kt to Q R 3
5. P to Q B 3	5. Kt to K B 3	11. Q to K 2	11. P to Q 3
6. P to Q 4	6. Kt takes P	12. Q takes Q	Black mated in 3 moves.

GAME LXVIII.

Between Mr. Steinitz and an Amateur.

VIENNA OPENING.

White (Mr. S.)	Black (Mr. M.)	White (Mr. S.)	Black (Mr. M.)
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	12. B takes P ch	12. K to Q 2
2. Q Kt to B 3	2. Kt to K B 3	13. B takes R P	13. Kt to K B 3
3. P to K B 4	3. P to Q 3 (a)	14. B to Kt 4 ch	14. K to B 3
4. Kt to K B 3	4. B to K Kt 5	15. B to K 3	15. Kt takes Q B P (d)
5. B to B 4	5. B takes Kt	16. Q takes K P	16. Q takes P (e)
6. Q takes B	6. B to K 2	17. R takes Kt ch	17. P takes R
7. P to Q 3	7. Kt to Q B 3	18. Q to K 6 ch	18. Q to Q 3
8. Castles	8. Kt to Q 5	19. Q to B 4 ch	19. Q to B 4
9. Q to K B 2	9. Kt to Kt 5	20. Q to R 4 ch (f)	20. P to Q Kt 4
10. Q to Kt 3 (b)	10. P to K R 4	21. Q to R 6 ch	21. Q to Kt 3
11. P takes P	11. P takes P (c)	22. B takes Q	Resigns.

(a) P to Q 4 is generally preferred at this juncture.

(b) With the view of sacrificing "the exchange," if Black takes the Q B P.

(c) Giving up one Pawn designedly for the attack, but apparently overlooking that White can take the K R P afterwards safely

(d) If, instead, Black had taken the B first and the Pawn afterwards, White could have won a piece, as follows :—

	15. Kt takes B
16. Q takes Kt	16. Kt takes P
17. Q to K 6 ch	17. B interposes
18. Q to B 4 ch	18. K moves
19. Q to R 4 ch	&c., &c.

(e) It is clear that if either B had been captured, White would have mated in two moves, by Q to Kt 5 ch, &c.

(f) Much better than taking the Q at once.

GAME LXIX.

Played recently between Mr. Macdonnell and Mr. Lowe.

(King's Gambit declined)

White. Mr. M.	Black. Mr. L.	White. Mr. M.	Black. Mr. L.
1. P to K 4	1. P to K 4	16. B to Q 3	16. K to R sq
2. P to K B 4	2. B to B 4	17. P to Q 5	17. Kt to K sq
3. Kt to K B 3	3. P to Q 3	18. B to Q 4	18. P to Q B 4
4. P to Q B 3	4. B to Kt 3	19. B takes Kt	19. Q takes B
5. B to B 4	5. Kt to Q B 3	20. Q takes Q	20. P takes Q
6. P to Q 4	6. P takes P	21. R to Kt 4	21. R to K Kt sq
7. P takes P	7. Kt to K B 3	22. K R to Kt sq	22. R takes R
8. Kt to Q B 3	8. B to K Kt 5	23. R takes R	23. Kt to Kt 2
9. B to K 3	9. Q to K 2	24. P to K 5	24. P to B 5
10. Q to Q 3	10. B to Q R 4 (a)	25. B to K 4	25. B P takes P
11. P to K R 3	11. Q B takes Kt ch	26. P takes P	26. Kt to B 4
12. P takes B	12. B takes Kt	27. P to K 6 (c)	27. P takes P
13. Q takes B (b)	13. Castles K R	28. P takes P	28. R to K Kt sq (d)
14. Castles Q R	14. P to Q R 3	29. P to K 7	29. R to K sq
15. Q R to K Kt sq	15. P to Q Kt 4	30. B to K 5	30. Resigns

(a) Black loses time here, for this attack on the K P must come to nothing.

(b) White's centre now presents a formidable appearance, for which he is partly indebted to his adversary's last two moves.

(c) Mr. Macdonnell plays the termination very prettily.

(d) We should think that Kt takes B, followed by R to K sq, or K to Kt 2, according to White's move, would have been more to the purpose.

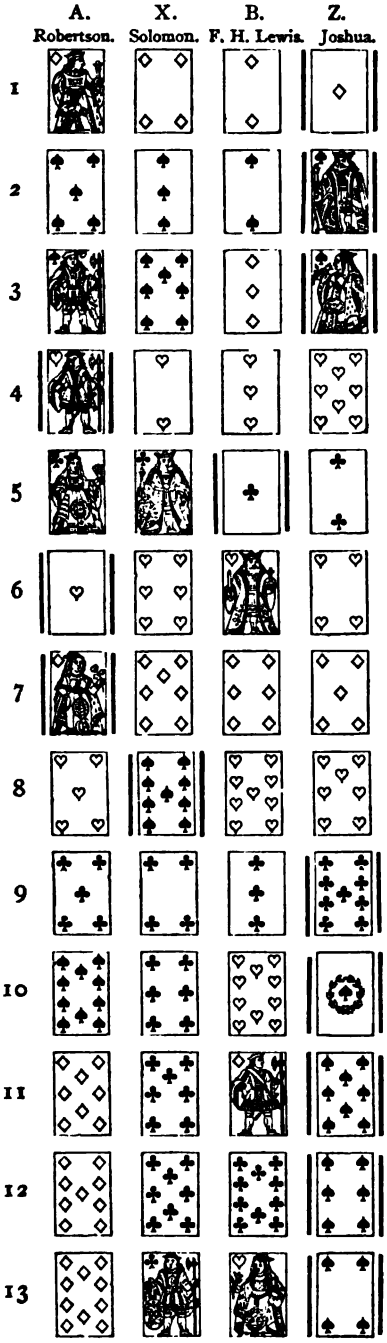
WHIST.

A and B play against X and Z. A leads. The card with the double rim wins, and the card below the rimmed card is the next one led.

HAND No. 124.

Played at the Westminster Chess Club, 14th February 1872.

Score—Love All. Z turns up S Q.



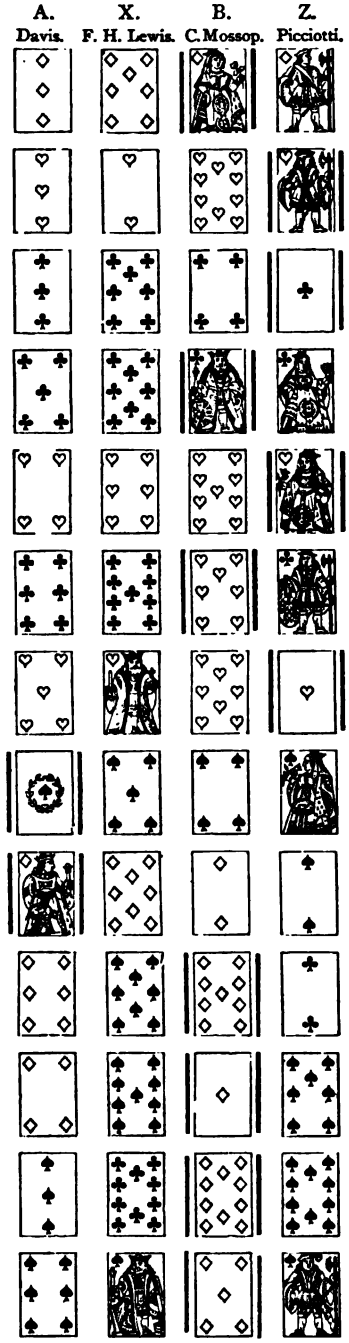
HAND No. 125.

Played at the Westminster Chess Club, 7th March 1872.

B's Hand—H 10, 9, 8, 7; S 4; C Kg 4; D A, Q, 10, 9, 5, 2.

Hearts Trumps. Z turned up H Q.

Score—X and Z 4, A and B 2.

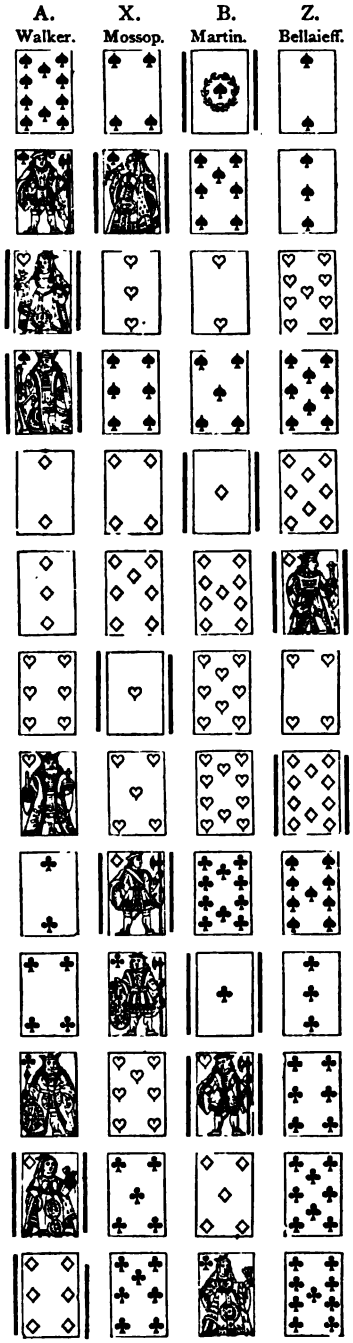


HAND No. 126.

Another of the Match Games.

Score—Love All.

Z turns up D Kg.



HAND No. 124.

NOTES.—3. By putting on the Knave, and thus deceiving the leader, A seems to us to lose the game. To our thinking, A should have led the third round in trumps on the first opportunity. He knows that Z led trumps from great strength in trumps, and probably therefore he has not another strong suit. B, by his discard of the Diamond, tells A that he has some strength in one other suit, probably both. 9. This is the point in the hand. X is not deceived by A's ruse; in fact, it is very seldom these little dodges do deceive anybody. X sees that Z cannot have the 10, or he has nothing but trumps. If the 10 is held up by A, then it is necessary for Z to win the Club, and kill the Knave, or he cannot win the game. X plays exceedingly well in not leading the best C.

HAND No. 125.

NOTES.—2. Desperate cases require desperate remedies. 3. The proper lead appears to be the S Q.

HAND No: 126.

NOTES.—5. If it be sound to lead the trump now, surely it was better to lead it before the Spade King. For our part we are inclined to think the trump should have been led originally.

JOTTINGS—WEAK LEADS.

A DIFFICULTY under which we labour, is to ascertain how much, or how little, our readers know. We wrote for a long time on the supposition that every one knew what was a "Blue Peter," and we were astounded when we were informed that the term did not appear in any Whist book. This is the effect of living in a small circle—a necessity of our existence we admit, but a disadvantage all the same, because we are all liable to assume that the knowledge or opinion of our circle is the knowledge or opinion of the general mass. We have recently referred to weak leads, and we have been asked to explain what weak leads are, and, in turning to the books, we find little direct information on the subject. We will endeavour to supply the deficiency, although, from the nature of the subject, our information must be imperfect. The term, weak lead, is, in fact, undefinable. A weak lead is known only by inference, and for our purpose we must assume that the players are book players. We must assume again that these players invariably lead from their strongest suits in the first instance; and if the players are not book players, and do not follow this rule, we must take it for granted that the original lead may be a weak lead, in which event we can only infer that it is a weak lead from the nature of the card led. Again, if the player be an irregular player—a careless player, reckless as to the value of small cards, we can trust to nothing except the fall of the other cards, our own hand, our natural acumen, and a knowledge of the peculiarities of the player.

We propose to leave the erratic players out of the question, and to write on the assumption that all lead correctly. We assume that a good player leads from his strongest suit. There is however an exception to this. It may be that before a player gets a lead, his strong suit may have been led from his right, and it follows that it would be disadvantageous to return that suit. This is a common case, which causes a weak suit to be opened, and it must be one of the elements that the players should bear in mind, to induce them to believe in the possibility of a lead from weakness. Of course the card led must be an indication also. It can seldom occur that the player has a strong suit, say in Clubs, originally led from his right, and a strong other suit not led; but if a player should have two such suits, and he shows that he has, by opening a new suit with a small card, then it follows that he cannot have many trumps. Winning the original trick, and not having another suit of four, and not being sufficiently strong to lead trumps, he is forced into a weak lead at once, and he therefore leads the best of his plain suit, not having more than three of such suit. The further inference to be drawn therefore is, that the player who opens a weak suit on an original lead is strong in the suit to his right. A weak lead early in the hand is of considerable importance, and, in order to realise the fact, you have to bear in mind the leads and the inferences from leads. If, for example, a player leads an Ace, and you know he has not five of the suit, or if, leading an Ace, you know he has not Qn, Kv, or Kv, 10, 9, this should point out at once that he is leading from weakness, because these are the only combinations in which a good player leads the Ace. There is no rule without an exception, and therefore we may say here, for the purpose of avoiding repetition, that the exceptions would be when there has been a discard of the suit so led, or when a particular trick is of value to save or win a point. We have stated when an Ace is led from strength, but later on the Ace may be led from Ace and another where there is a probability of that suit being the partner's, or when there is a chance of a cross ruff. As we are speaking of players with a knowledge of the leads, of course we leave out the Ace and another as an original lead. We may then go on to the Kg lead. The Kg is led from Ace, Kg, four, or more, Kg, Qn, four, or more. Now, if from your own cards you know that your partner has not the Ace or the Qn, you know at once that the lead is from weakness, and that it is intended to help your hand, and you play accordingly. The Qn is led from Qn, Kv, 10, and another, or others. We state this broadly, but with the Mathews' school the Qn is led from Qn, Kv, 9, and others. Here again, if the lead is not from Qn, Kv, 10, and another, and you judge this from the fall of the cards, and the cards in your own hand, then is the lead from weakness. The Kv is led from Kg, Qn, Kv, and two, or more others, or Kv, 10, 9, and another, or others. If the lead is not from one of these, then the lead is from weakness.

The 10 is led from (1) Kg, Kv, 10 and another; (2) Kg, Qn, Kv, 10, another or others; (3) Ace, Kg, Qn, Kv, 10, with another or others; (4) 10, 9, 8 and others. As regards 2 and 3, we never complicate the position by leading the 10 at all; but we have not yet converted the public to our view, and therefore we insert them here as possible leads. We think, as regards No. 2, it is better to lead the Kv, and as regards (3,) we lead the Kg. In both these cases we think the Kv and the Kg give more important information than the 10, because the information comes early in the hand. We avoid the complication of the 10 lead, which is so often confused with the Kg, Kv, 10, and we so constantly see the 10 trumped, when the Kv or the Kg, in the same position, would not be trumped, that we feel satisfied we may with confidence recommend the simplicity as of greater value than the more orthodox 10 as a lead. Sequences of lower cards than the 10 are treated as suits of small cards only, and the lowest is led, therefore the lead of the 9 is from weakness, or from Ace, Qn, 10, 9, or Kg, Kv, 10, 9; and in the latter case we still lead the 10, for the sake of simplicity. The 8 means that the leader holds Ace, Kv, 10, 8; Ace, Kv, 9, 8; Kg, Kv, 9, 8; Ace, 10, 9, 8; Kg, 10, 9, 8; Ace, Kv, 9, 8; Ace, 10, 9, 8. It would be nonsense to go further with the leads, because a moment's consideration will shew that if a 7, 6, 5, 4 or 3 is led, and a higher card drops from your partner the second round, the lead is from four, of which the card led is the lowest, and if a less card fall than the card led, then the lead is from weakness. So far as we have gone, all the information is to be obtained by a knowledge of the leads, as laid down in the books, coupled with the necessary observations to draw the proper inferences from the leads. We are not therefore giving anything new on the subject, but we point out what we and our predecessors have shewn in a different manner, and we have availed ourselves of an Article that appeared in our first vol., called "Inferences from Leads," which we consider the most valuable paper that ever appeared in our pages. It must not be assumed that full information can be obtained the first round, as to whether the lead is from weakness or not.

There is another large range of inferences to be drawn from the fall of the cards. Thus, if the second hand plays an 8 on a 2 or 3, it follows that this player has not the 7, 6, 5 or 4, and each of the other hands tell you something. Thus, if the third player plays the Kv, he tells you he has not the 10, and if the fourth player wins the Kv with the Ace, he tells you he has not the Kg or Qn. Then we go back for a moment, and we know that the second hand has not Kg and Qn, or he would have put on the Qn, and it follows from this that the Qn is with our partner. Indeed, there is hardly a card played that does not tell something to an observant player. It may be said, and doubtless with some truth, that to labour at Whist in the above fashion is preposterous and absurd. We admit that nine-tenths of the players never pretend to do anything of the sort. To the general public the labour would be great, and for the very obvious cause, which we have so repeatedly pointed out, viz., Whist players will not begin by learning the leads; if they will not do that they cannot, in the nature of things, draw correct inferences. The one thing follows from the other—the inferences cannot be drawn without the knowledge of the leads. There are many players who know the right card to lead from a given hand, but who cannot draw the right inferences from the same card led by another player. To the Whist player who really knows the leads, the inferences come naturally, and without effort; it is, in fact, nothing more than reading the hand; and although no man would be esteemed a musician of the first, second, third or fourth class, that could not play a simple melody at sight, yet we have Whist players, or men who think they are Whist players, wholly unable to read the language in which they are addressed. It would be difficult for a child, who just knows her notes, to play at sight, and it would be as absurd to expect her to do so as it is to expect the Whist infants to draw the inferences the cards suggest; but we do not expect all Whist players to be children at their art. We expect them to learn, and they cannot learn without labour; they cannot be born Whist players or musicians, or masters of any subject.

There are however many instances in which a lead is made later on in the hand, which are either speculative or forced leads. Take for instance a common case, when, having opened your strong suit, you get no assistance from your partner, and the trick is won by the adversaries with a small card. You get the lead again, and you find you have not sufficient strength to bring in your suit; you are not sufficiently strong to lead trump, and you dare not run the risk of forcing your partner. Under these circumstances you have to change your suit; you have the choice of two suits, and it is an even chance which you should lead. We call this lead the "Lead speculative." It is improbable that you possess four of the new suit, and with two or three, the proper lead is the highest of the one you select. Almost any card above a 6 ought, under the circumstances, to be known to be a lead from weakness. We are quite aware there are occasions when it is impossible to tell for certain that this is so. All we can say is, that the second lead is probably from weakness, and the hand should be played on this assumption. The partner must watch with great care the cards played to the trick, and if he does so he will seldom be misled. The most obvious case in which the weak lead can be detected is when a player leads to his partner's discard—thus, Spades trumps (all out). If Clubs have been led, and the partner discards a Diamond, and the lead is a Heart, it is nearly certain that the Heart led is the best in the leader's hand. Yet, strange as it may seem, we witness players who have had a knowledge of the game for twenty or even forty years, who cannot see that this lead is a forced lead, and is, necessarily, from weakness. We witnessed a case of this sort recently, which may point the moral. Our original lead was Kg, followed by the Qn and the Ace of Spades. On the latter our partner discarded a Heart, the Ace was trumped, and the trumps (Clubs) were all drawn but one, we winning the last round, and the long trump being with our partner.

Now, in this position, we led the 8 of Diamonds. The second player played the 6. Our partner had in each suit (Diamonds and Hearts) originally 4 to the Kv. The Kv was won by the Qn, and the best Spade forced out our partner's long trump. Now, in this position, it was nearly certain that our 8 of Hearts was the highest, and, as our partner had no chance of bringing in the Heart, his only lead was the Kv of Diamonds; but of course he did not lead that, but in his innocence returned the Heart, just as if the 8 had told him nothing. In trumps, if your partner has refused to trump a winning card of the adversary, you are commanded to lead trumps, and almost any card should tell your partner that you are leading from weakness; yet, day by day, we see players who will not recognise this fact. They will tell you, with the greatest composure, that you led trumps, and therefore they thought you wanted them out, quite regardless of the fact that you have not thought of your own wishes, but only of your partner's. When a player leads from weakness, or to his partner's discard, or to his command for trumps, whether that command is conveyed by signal, or by refusing to trump a winning card, the partner should take the suit into his own hands, and play in such a manner that he will get the greatest number of tricks in the suit by his own cards alone. One other word in conclusion—When late in the hand a card is led, the object of which you cannot understand, endeavour as far as possible to place yourself in the leader's position. Consider the difficulties that he has to contend with, and the knowledge he possesses. Each player knows something that the other does not. Reason from his premises, and not yours, and you will, by this means, often obtain the clue for which you are in search.

SHEWING YOUR HAND TO YOUR PARTNER.

It is not our intention to revive the controversy which arose between Cavendish and Mr. Clay on the one hand, and Mogul and ourselves on the other. The matter rests thus: if, say Cavendish and Mr. Clay, you show your cards to your partner, and thus take an unfair advantage, you commit a social offence, but no Whist offence. We, on the contrary, say you have exposed your cards above the table, and not only do you commit a social offence, but you come distinctly within the law, and can be punished for your misconduct. We were at a loss to understand Cavendish's views. We could not make out how a card could be exposed above the table, if in this case the cards were not exposed, and we might have remained in ignorance until the end of time, if Cavendish had not once more entered the arena to enlighten us. He tells us, in the *Field* of the 2nd of March, "*The words 'in any way exposed' are merely surplusage, and mean nothing. The law says, in effect, an exposed card is an exposed card.*" There is so much simplicity in the matter that we are quite astonished that we did not find out the enigma—Cavendish's system of construction—before. Here is a clause that does not fit in with his preconceived views. Either Cavendish or the law must give way, and therefore the laws are put on one side. Whenever you find a clause in the code that you do not approve, strike it out. It is merely surplusage or nonsense. Only we should like to know whether our rulers strike out other little clauses. The revoke penalty is very inconvenient at times. May we suggest that the revoke penalty means nothing, and is mere surplusage? When Cavendish rises to the occasion, he is indeed grand. Look at the next sentence. The law in effect says, "an exposed card is an exposed card." There is a splendid roll about it; it is epigrammatic, and perhaps true, but where the law says any thing of the sort we do not know. Our law makers committed many mistakes, but we do not find any such definition as that an exposed card is an exposed card. To our readers we will only suggest that they had better burn the code. The laws are mere surplusage, and if any dispute arise let them ask Cavendish what the law is, and either by striking out something as surplusage, or putting in something that is not there, they will get a decision, and if they are satisfied with this system of construction, it is not for us to complain.

Throwing up the Cards.—A player, under the impression that he was four by honours, and therefore game, threw up his hand; in point of fact he wanted one more trick to make game. The trumps were out, and his hand consisted of H Q, (best), 8; D Kg, 2; C A. His adversary, X, had H 10 (2nd best) 7, 6, 5, and S Kv (best). The other hands are immaterial. X called the H 8, won it with the 10; led the S Kv, and called the H Q, and won the rest of the tricks with the Hearts. We give this as another warning against the silly habit of throwing up the cards. The ingenuity in taking advantage of the blunder, on the spur of the moment, was commendable.

DOUBLE DUMMY PROBLEM, No. LXII.

A's Hand.—D Kg, Q, 3; H Ace, 9; C Ace, Q, 10, 2; S Ace, Kg, 10, 3.

B's Hand.—D 8, 6, 5, 4, 2; H 8, 7, 6, 5; C 7, 6, 5; S Kv.

C's Hand.—D Ace, 10, 9, 7; H 3, 2; C Kn, 4, 3; S 6, 5, 4, 2.

D's Hand.—D Kn; H Kg, Q, Kv, 10, 4; C Kg, 9, 8; S Q, 9, 8, 7.

Clubs trumps.—A to lead, and A and C to make all 13 tricks.

CROQUET.

REVISION OF THE LAWS.

After the publication of the Rules in our March number, Rules 28 and 29 were reconsidered and altered. Hence we have reprinted the whole alterations.—ED.

A JOINT Committee of the Grand National and All England Clubs was appointed in December last, to receive and arrange the votes of the Secretaries, and the following changes have been effected.

The old ten-hoop setting (No. 1) is cut out, and the setting of the Grand National Club substituted.—See Frontispiece to the present volume of *Westminster Papers*, issued with this Number.

The seven-hoop and the six-hoop setting are both retained, but the former is not particularly recommended for match play as before. Accordingly, on page 11, the words "recommended for match play" (No. 2) are struck out. On the same page, in explanation of the six-hoop setting (No. 3), the words, "*an advantage of this setting is, that it can be easily condensed to suit small grounds,*" are also struck out.

Old Rule.—ABOLITION OF CUE STROKE.

Rule 1.—There shall be no restriction as to the number, weight, size, shape or material of the mallets, nor as to the attitude or position of the striker; nor as to the part of the mallet held *or used to strike with*. NOTE.—The words given in italics are those which have been struck out; words in capitals are those which have been added.

New Rule.

Rule 1.—There shall be no restriction as to the number, weight, size, shape or material of the mallets, nor as to the attitude or position of the striker; nor as to the part of the mallet held, PROVIDED THE BALL IS NOT STRUCK WITH THE HANDLE.

Old Rule.—ABOLITION OF PEGGING OUT.

Rule 16.—If a rover (except when in hand) be caused by any stroke not foul to hit the winning peg, the rover is out of the game, and must be removed from the ground.

New Rule.

Rule 16.—If a rover (except when in hand) be caused to hit the winning peg, BY ANY stroke OF THE SAME SIDE NOT FOUL, the rover is out of the game, and must be removed from the ground.

In rule 8 (points counted to non-striker's ball) the word "peg" is replaced by the words "TURNING peg," in order to bring the rule into harmony with rule 16.

Rule 24. The last sentence is omitted, viz., "*Should the striker or his partner touch, stop or divert the course of either ball after a croquet the stroke is foul.*

In 25, sub-section d. Cut out "*player*" and substitute "STRIKER."

Rules 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, with all the examples, are struck out, and the two following rules are inserted:—

28.—PLAYING OUT OF TURN OR WITH THE WRONG BALL.—If a player play out of turn, or with the wrong ball, the remainder of the turn is lost, and any point or roquet made after the mistake. The balls remain where they lie when the mistake is discovered, or are replaced as they were before the last stroke was made, at the option of the adversary. But if the adverse side play without discovering the mistake, the turn holds good, and any point or points made in error are scored to the ball by which they have been made; except when, after having made a point with the wrong ball, the player plays, and continues to play to the end of his turn, with the right ball, in which case all points made during the turn are scored to the right ball. Whether the mistake be discovered or not, the adversary may follow with either ball of his own side.

29.—PLAYING FOR A WRONG POINT.—If a player, after making a wrong point, make a second stroke, the remainder of the turn is lost, and any point or roquet made by that stroke. The balls remain where they lie when the mistake is discovered, or are replaced as they were before the second stroke was made, at the option of the adversary. But if the mistake be not discovered before a third stroke has been made, the turn holds good, and the player who has made the mistake is deemed to be for the point next in order to that which he last made.

The alteration and condensation of the above laws will alter the numbering of the rules to the end, and the total number of the laws will now be 36 instead of 41. In the recommendations at the bottom of page 7, add PASSING THE BOUNDARY, OR MAKING A FOUL STROKE, DOES NOT PREVENT A PLAYER TAKING A BISQUE.

DRAMATIC NOTES.

THAT activity in theatrical affairs, which we noted last month, still continues; and the opening of the spring season is marked by changes at nearly every theatre. The Haymarket with *Pygmalion*, the Lyceum with *The Bells*, the Vaudeville with *London Assurance*, the Prince of Wales' with *Caste*, and the Gaiety with Mr. Toole, keep their programmes unchanged; for though Mr. Toole is presented in various forms, the points of his several performances are very much the same. Elsewhere however novelties have been produced, or are shortly promised, in rich abundance. Covent Garden and Drury Lane are handed over to Italian Opera. The Princesses and Adelphi to new sensation dramas; the Queen's produces *Cymbeline*, as the result of the late Shakspearian ballot; and the Court a new play, by Dr. West-

land Marston and Mr. W. G. Wills in conjunction. The novelties or revivals we are able to comment upon are—*Forgiven*, a comedy by Mr. Albery, at the Globe; *The Poor Gentleman* at the Strand; *Ruy Blas* at the Adelphi; and a comedy and burlesque at the Royalty. The Olympic, Astley's and Royal Alfred remain closed. A new management at the Holborn Theatre, which establishment opens its doors at spasmodic intervals, announces an adaptation of a French play, under the strange title of *La Vie Parisienne in London*. The character of this production, which is the work of Mr. Burnand, may be sufficiently guessed at by a perusal of the advertisement, which includes the fine-sounding names of a score of ladies, whose claims to dramatic reputation are utterly unknown to us. It remains to be seen whether the failure which has attended previous efforts of this kind at the Holborn and Globe Theatres will not be extended to the present venture. Of the quality of the Easter pieces that are about to be produced, we are unable at the date of writing to judge, but the quantity is apparent; and yet, with all this enterprise, good and bad, which is going on in the metropolis, the provinces swarm with London companies, gathered together for the performance of every conceivable form of the drama. There is a *Caste* company, a *Frou-Frou* company, a *Pygmalion* and *Galatea* company, and two *Woman in White* companies, the one coached by Mr. Wybert Reeve, the other by Mr. Vining, who, to enhance the attractions of his prospectus, advertises a short summary of his career and achievements. In addition there are London Comedy and Burlesque companies without end. The old rule of the stage is thus reversed, and instead of the provinces feeding the London stage, the metropolis now supplies talent to the country. Where recruits are collected from for London, it is difficult to say; but the presumption is that managers ransack suburban amateur clubs for their male, and the casinos for their female performers. If then we regard the multitude of actors and actresses in London itself, and the large numbers sent by London to the provinces, the colonies and the United States, it would seem that that centralisation which statesmen avoid in political government has come to pass in theatrical affairs; and with disastrous results, if numerous failures are the test. Just as speculating builders run up weak houses of lath and plaster, by the myriad, in and about London, so do speculating managers start inefficient lath and plaster companies, who have no notion of acting, and cannot even sing correctly the tootle-tums of burlesque. In either case, the end is failure.

The interval which occurs between what are known as the winter and spring seasons is usually marked by a number of benefits. The absurd and unjustifiable system of benefits is one which we have already denounced. Were the person to be benefited one that stood in need of assistance, the practice might be tolerated; but where the *beneficiare* is either a successful manager, who virtually has a benefit every night—or a popular actor, who is netting his thousands yearly, or an acting manager, who coerces people into supporting him, the system is utterly corrupt and indefensible. One would suppose that Mr. G. W. Moore, the proprietor of the Christy's Minstrels, or Mr. Chatterton, the lessee of Drury Lane, were the last persons for whom a public appeal should be necessary. To an uniniated individual the procedure in this matter is puzzling. When Mr. Chatterton takes a benefit, do his company forego their salaries, and thus afford the spectacle of servants supporting their master? Or, if they are paid as usual, what is the difference to Mr. Chatterton between this and any other night? Drury Lane is the home of benefits, and we understand that some twenty out of the last thirty nights of the season are devoted to the (unadvertised) benefits of various individuals, connected or unconnected with the theatre, including, amongst others, a mysterious official, known as the manager of the free list. If this gentleman is supported properly by all to whom he has given favours, all the theatres in London would be insufficient to contain his clients. But as yet we have never heard of the utility-men, scene-shifters, ballet girls, and supernumeraries, who stand most in need of it, receiving a benefit, and it is therefore to be supposed that a certain amount of capital is necessary for the operation. Perhaps the most successful *beneficiare* of all is the acting manager, who combines in himself the duties of a manager of the free list and of an advertising agent to a struggling newspaper, and who may be frequently seen standing in the doorway of the theatres, between half-past six and seven. Let us suppose that he is the acting manager of some establishment which requires much "papering." In the discharge of his duties he distributes, during the year, a quantity of free admissions, which cost him nothing, to various people, of whose names and addresses he keeps careful record. So soon as Lent comes round he announces his benefit, and sends parcels of tickets for sale to those whom he has favoured, with a significant hint that his future smiles are contingent on a large return of money. By these means he reaps a comfortable income. He is thus kept in clover, first, by the lessee, without whom he could not distribute the free admissions; secondly, by his clients, who pay perhaps ten shillings on one night to save five during the year; and thirdly, by the friends of these clients, who subscribe for the benefit tickets from good nature, and receive nothing in return. This is a simple and beautiful system—for the acting manager.

If we were to judge Mr. Albery's new comedy, *Forgiven*, by the dialogue alone, we should pronounce it a work of great merit. There are plenty of really good things and epigrammatic sayings, and the effect produced upon an Irish member by one witticism was so great, that he repeated it for the benefit of the House of Commons. This, as Mr. Disraeli once said, is fame indeed. But Mr. Albery's plot is by no means equal to his dialogue, and the verdict of the first night was, at the end of the play, doubtful. The audience was very favourably inclined, and when the second act closed on an extremely unnatural situation, vociferously

summoned the author. Mr. Montague, who has a pardonable weakness for addressing his audience, told them that the author was exercising a wise discretion, and declined to appear till the end of the piece. The author would have shown an equally wise discretion in not appearing at all, for by the time the fourth and last act was over, his friends had been wearied out, and showed no inclination for his presence. The main story of the play is that of a young, long haired, and morbidly sentimental artist, who, jilted by a lady of rank whom he loves, proposes to and marries in haste a gardener's daughter, who plainly shows that she loves him. Their love making is effectively carried on over a sun-dial, which serves the same purpose as the sewing-machine in *Two Roses*, the apple-basket in *Apple Blossoms*, the milk-jug in *School*, and other useful properties in other modern comedies. In the second act we find the artist in London, slightly ashamed of his wife and her father, and ready for mischief. This is not long in happening, for the Lady Maude, his first love, appears on the scene, and such is the effect produced on the artist, that he naturally falls to quoting Tennyson, which he does sufficiently to make the young aristocrat faint and his wife look astonished. The Lady Maude however is resolved to be revenged on him for taking her refusal of him *au pied de lettre*, and in the third act she is found to have weaved a spell of fascination around him. His effort to break away from her enrages her to that degree that she becomes a washed-out imitation of a noble Egyptian lady who lived in the time of Pharaoh. She publicly accuses the artist of making dishonourable overtures to her, and the modern Joseph flies away from wife and everybody, leaving his garment of reputation behind. Here the simile ends, for the Lady Maude repents and strives to bring husband and wife together, which is accomplished in the last act. Bad as is this plot in itself, it is made worse by the fact that the leading points of it take place between the acts, and not in them. Between the first and second, occurs the marriage of the artist and his lowly love, with the first few months which disenchant him. Between the second and third, takes place the process of seduction, by which Lady Maude parts him from his wife. Between the third and fourth, takes place the separation itself, and the penitence of Lady Maude. Thus each act is a kind of finishing to something that has occurred in the interval, which is left to the imagination of the audience. The hero also is too contemptible a character to attract sympathy. The manner in which Mr. Montague dresses the character favours the supposition that Mr. Albery intended it to be contemptible, but he should have made the fact certain, by causing the artist to quote Rossetti or Swinbourne in place of Tennyson. There are, in addition to the characters we have named, a number of others, who are more or less charged to the muzzle with Mr. Albery's witticisms, but interfere sadly with the progress of the story. The acting is very fair all round, but the best is undoubtedly shown by Mr. Compton in the character of the old gardener. The scenery is extremely ambitious for a play of this class, but the artist, in introducing the dome of the Albert Hall in the Horticultural Gardens scene, adds greatly to the age of the Waterloo veterans, Lord Dart and Paul Cudlipp, who, by the lowest computation, must be verging on four score years. We are bound to say that neither Mr. Flockton or Mr. Compton looked this age.

The contrast between modern comedy, as represented by *Forgiven*, and that of an older date, as represented by *The Poor Gentleman*, is sufficiently marked. In the matter of sentiment they are equally objectionable, for whilst that of Albery is morbid, that of Colman the younger is maudlin. On the whole perhaps the latter is preferable, for the virtuous declamation, popularly known as the "red waistcoat" style, merely makes us laugh. But the overstrained and fleshly sentimentality of certain of our modern poets and dramatists causes wise men to be angry, and weak women to go wrong. In the matter of construction, *The Poor Gentleman* is far superior to *Forgiven*, for there is not a character that could be well spared, except Dr. Ollapod himself, and we doubt whether the Strand audience could dispense with Mr. J. S. Clarke, who fills this character in the present revival. By cutting the play down to three acts, the management have got rid of much superfluous matter that would be tedious to a modern audience, and the acting is of a meritorious character,—Messrs. Turner and Paulton, who enact Sir Robert Bramble and his servant Humphrey, being especially good. The representative of Lieut. Worthington must have been chosen as a tribute to the exploded sentiment of the play, for nothing could be more lugubrious and pulpit-like than his measured cadences. As for Mr. Clarke, he never varies. Whether he acts in the *Widow Hunt*, or *Toodles*, or the *Heir at Law*, or the *Poor Gentleman*, he goes through the same antics, movements, and grimaces, which are undoubtedly the funniest things of their kind on the stage. Nobody can help laughing at or approving his genuine art, though it might be wished that he would introduce some variety into his impersonations. A long course of collaboration with Mr. Clarke has inoculated Mrs. Raymond with the same style, for she is just as funny, and equally monotonous. Mr. Clarke's reading of the catch sentence, "Thank you, good sir, I owe you one," seems to us entirely incorrect.

Mr. Fechter has reappeared for a short season at the Adelphi, in his old character of Ruy Blas. In appearance he is little altered since he left England, being, as then, obese and unloverlike. But looks go for nothing in art, and Mr. Fechter gives a fine, though unequal, performance of the aspiring lackey. He is best when subdued, for when he shouts, as he occasionally does, he grows indistinct, and his gesticulations become eccentric. The revival is interesting from the remarkably fine performance of Don Salluste, by Mr. Fernandez. Despite certain mannerisms of voice and movement, the impersonation of Mr. Fernandez is intelligent and subtle, and marks him out for distinction. It is scarcely too bold a thing to say that it was a finer performance

than that of Mr. Fechter. The acting of both gentlemen was however thrown into the shade by the extremely comical nature of the Adelphi scenery and properties, and the remaining Adelphi performers, amongst whom Mr. Romer was conspicuous from his wearing a wig which was probably last seen on the head of a gipsy in the *Flowers of the Forest.*

Douglas Jerrold's play, the *Housekeeper*, has been revived at the Royalty Theatre. The performances hitherto have consisted of a comedy, by Mr. Sutherland Edwards, and a burlesque, both represented in a very feeble manner. Mr. Nation, the lessee, apparently pins his faith on his own songs, and on a point which he describes in the advertisments as "Ballet-a-la-Française—Stage-boxes four guineas." The connection between these seemingly incongruous items will be patent to everybody.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CHESS.

THUS, MYRRHA, ET AURUM.—We have received a communication, dated 11th March 1872, from the author of these problems, informing us that he has discovered a second solution to No. 1 of the set. He also points out the mode in which the problem may be corrected, and requests that, if the regulations of the tourney debar him from making such correction, his problems may be withdrawn from the competition. This composer being resident in Europe (but out of the United Kingdom), the 20th February last was the latest date on which his problems could be received, or any alteration made in them, in accordance with the regulations of the tourney. The correction therefore comes too late; but the problems are withdrawn, as requested.

CEDO MAJORI.—We omitted to mention last month that this set has been withdrawn from the tourney.

J. P.—No. 1 appears to admit of a second solution, as follows:

1. Q to Q 4 ch K to B 2

If R interposes, mate follows in two more moves.

2. Q to Q 7 ch K takes Kt
3. R takes P ch K moves
4. Q mates

The problem, even if it was correct, is not up to your last mark. No. 3 seems to be right, and shall appear next month.

W. C. C. (Ditton).—We should be glad to comply with your request, but, as the school-boys say, "turn about is fair play."

H. T. Y. (Cumberland Place).—An excellent little problem. Unfortunately, White on the second move may play the R to K B 6, K Kt 6, or K R 6, with the same result. This defect can very easily be remedied, but we like the composer to effect the cure in his own way. Please let us hear from you on the point.

F. T. C. (Victoria Street).—We care nothing for such critics. The jaw bone of an ass is a poor weapon in these days.

W. B. M. (Inverness).—You have omitted to send the solution of the three-move problem. Please forward it at your convenience.

A. C. P. (Mitcham).—An excellent little problem; it shall appear in our next number.

W. H. (Truro).—Thanks. We are obliged to let it stand over until next month, owing to the pressure upon our space.

J. C. (Gateshead).—Neither the letter nor exemplar promised has come to hand.

G. E. B. (Inverness).—Forgiven. Repeat the offence as often as you like, we shall always be glad to hear from you.

Y. (Cheltenham).—There is a correspondence club at Hertford—the "Caissa." Write to Mr. C. F. Green, honorary secretary, 1 Railway Street, Hertford.

O. A. B. (Dubuque).—We have written to you in reference to the points mentioned in your letter.

T. C. B. (Corcreevy House).—We have to apologise for having, last month, omitted to acknowledge your first problem. No. 2 admits of a solution in three moves, thus: 1. R to Q 3; 2. Kt to Kt 5; 3. R mates. We shall be glad to send you some diagrams, if you will give us a specific address. Is Five-Mile Town near to Six-Mile Bridge? No. 1 shows great promise, and is marked for insertion.

WHIST.

H. M. P.—Under the impression that my partner has taken into his hand a card belonging to an opponent, I request him to count his cards. Adversary objects to my making this request, as contrary to the laws of Whist. Have I the right to ask this question? *Ans.* It is the duty of every player to count his cards, and any player may be properly reminded of this duty. Anything not expressly forbidden or implied by the laws may be done to prevent your partner making a revoke. Thus, if you see your partner drop a card, you have a right to tell him that he has done so.

KIT.—Fourth player says Queen, but puts down King. Seeing his mistake, he plays Queen to the current trick, which wins. He then claims to play the King. I object, and require him to lead another suit. Can I do so? Can I prevent him playing the King?—*Ans.* No; the card can be called, and no other penalty attaches. You cannot prevent a player playing an exposed card. A suit cannot be called except when a player leads out of turn.

F. H.—You can take three tricks from your adversary's packet, and add them to your own; you can take three from your adversary's score, or you can add 3 to your own score. If you are at the score of 2, and your adversaries have four by honours, and get the whole thirteen tricks, you add three to your own score, and mark a treble.

J. W. W.—There should be no mistake about your first discard. Tell your partner distinctly what you do not want led; for that purpose unguard a King rather than deceive him.

C. H. N.—If two cards are dealt together, *i.e.* they drop on one packet, and a third card is dealt to the next packet, it is a misdeal. The two cards at hand No. 1 cannot be rectified by placing the right card to No. 1 and the right card to No. 2, and then taking up the third card dealt and placing it on hand No. 3.

M. A. C.—It is a revoke.

PIQUET.

S. S.—We believe that Cavendish is engaged on the laws of Piquet. The work is much wanted, and if the author will only take sufficient pains, no more competent authority could be selected to settle the laws.

BORAX D. D. 60.—The first lead is a trump. Return the Spade, then all the trumps. Ace, King, and another Club, and each player, A, B and Z must watch the others discard. At the end it will be seen that Z must either retain the two Spades, in which event the two Diamonds make. If he retain a Diamond, the Spade makes. A must not discard a Club, but his two largest Diamonds. We think this will make it simple for you.

B. J.—If you claim five cards and have six, you must abide by your first call, and declare the number of pips your best five cards have. If it should turn out that your adversary has five cards that count more than yours, his point is good.

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